

THE
FATAL EFFECTS
OF
DECEPTION.
A NOVEL.
IN THREE VOLUMES.
VOL. I.

L O N D O N :

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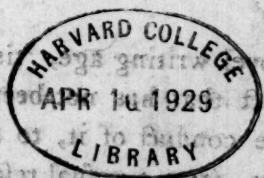
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In the present no writing is difficult to hit upon a subject which is already exhausted, or in the course of a charge of plagiarism, or in the case of some other person, who is not to be trifled with, comes under the reader's candour.

Greenough
(3 vols)

pieces of this sort, being to be regarded as "Not being originally intended for their inspection."—"Undertaken as the request of a most intimate friend."—"For private amusement, &c. &c."—The author is determined not to account, whether vanity, want of employment, or want of a dinner, was the motive which induced him to assume the character.

Conscious many misapprehensions and grammatical errors, may have escaped his observation, he is treated indulgence, and pleads no excuse, but an intention of reaching the bedside of a friend, and a desire which he has, to show himself a better man, which he has, himself may feel, a still stronger, from the severe lash of criticism.

6-11-29

ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the present novel writing age, 'tis difficult to hit upon a subject that has not been already exhausted, or in the conduct of it, to avoid the charge of plagiarism, from a casual resemblance to some other performance. How far the following trifle comes under this predicament, is referred to the reader's candour.

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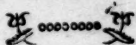
Conscious many inaccuracies, and grammatical errors, may have escaped his observation, he intreats indulgence, and pleads no merit, but an intention of inculcating the practice of virtue, and abhorrence of vice; a design, which he flatters himself may secure a first attempt, from the too severe lash of criticism.

Speedily will be published,

THE
DELICATE PRINCESS.

A

FAIRY TALE.



T H E
FATAL DECEPTION,

Mrs. B R U C E, at L I S B O N,

T O

Mr. C O O P E R, at H A R T L E Y P O I N T,
D E V O N S H I R E.

Dear Sir,

I Feel very severely the shock I am reduced to give to a friendship which has so long subsisted, betwixt you and my brother Lambert;—the only thing that I believe could have severed it, has alas, unfortunately happened.—We have lost an inestimable friend; his
B orphans

orphans the best of father's;—Incapable of supporting the weight of this calamity myself, with a proper degree of resignation; I yet would wish to recommend it to you. We were to have quitted Lisbon the beginning of March, by which time Mr. Lambert hoped he would be able to have finally adjusted his affairs, in this country;—his great assiduity, and unwearied attention to this point, added strength to his illness; the rapid progress of which, in three days, baffled every effort we could make for his recovery.—He expired about ten days since, with intire submission to the divine will; conscious from the integrity of his heart, and the rectitude of his actions, that his change was from a life of uncertainty, trouble and disappointment, to a state of endless felicity.—

Death

Death seemed to distress him on no other account, than its unavoidably separating him from his children, and (as he stiled you) the friend of his youth; he consoled himself in the hopes of rejoining a beloved wife, blessed his absent son, recommended him and his daughter to the protection of the Almighty, requested you would unite with me in the care of them, and by endeavouring to make them good, to make them happy.—Apprehensive of his danger from the moment he was seized, he immediately gave the clearest directions; and from his great regularity his affairs were very speedily settled.—His afflicted daughter sinking under the loss of so indulgent a father was obliged to be torn from his arms some moments before he expired, in a state of insensibility, from the excess of her affection for so valued a pa-

rent, and the extreme tenderness of her disposition, I fear it will be long before she recovers her former tranquility.—In my present situation you cannot suppose me capable of communicating to you so clearly as I could wish, a state of Mr. Lambert's affairs; but as he has appointed you joint executor with me, it is absolutely necessary I should acquaint you (in general terms) that as the last proof of his regard, he has left your two younger children three thousand pounds each, to me ten thousand, at my death to devolve to my niece; to whom he has given the same sum payable at his decease; the residue of his fortune (exclusive of a few small legacies to his acquaintance and domestics) he has bequeathed to his son, comprehending his estate in Buckinghamshire, that you lately purchased for him, together with all his securities

curities in the English funds, which he said were to a large amount,—For particular reasons, Mr. Lambert requested you to keep his son as ignorant as possible of the largeness of his fortune.—I must desire you to continue him so some time longer;—at a proper opportunity I will fully account to you for the precaution.—The great desire I have to see my nephew (to whom, at your discretion deliver the inclosed) will make me hasten my departure from hence;—a hope that the sight of her brother will lessen the grief of my poor Lucy, is another motive equally strong; her present situation is truly pitiable!—’Tis however possible the season of the year may retard me, and I will on no account set out until I receive letters, from England, which I shall impatiently expect.—I rely on your prudence to break the

late event to my nephew in a proper manner, and on your friendship, and that of your family to console him; to all which worthy family, Lucy joins in sincerest good wishes, with dear Sir,

your most obedient servant

MARGARET BRUCE.

The FATAL DECEPTION.

7

late event to my nephew in a proper manner, and on your friendship, and that of your family to console him; to all which worthy family I now joins in unceasing good wishes, with dear

Mrs. BRUCE, at LISBON,

T O

JAMES LAMBERT, Esq;

MARGARET BRUCE

LITTLE did I think that my last letter to you, my dear James, would so soon have been succeeded by another, the subject of which must be so painful to us both.—I presume Mr. Cooper will have already acquainted you with the melancholy event which has happened; all I can do, is to recommend you to the great friendship of that family, for an alleviation of your concern.

B 4

cern.—If your affection for your sister and me be as great as we hope it is, you will endeavour to mitigate your own grief, that, you may be better enabled to lessen ours.—Your sister, poor girl, (I need not say) always of a grave turn, is sunk into extreme dejection:—her brother, her affectionate brother, she is continually calling upon; I do all in my power to restrain the impetuosity of her sorrow, but while we remain here, I fear it will not avail; for which reason, I will hasten our departure as much as possible, I shall however be obliged to continue here, until I receive dispatches from Mr. Cooper and you, probably something longer, as there are a few trifling affairs not yet adjusted, your father's illness did not permit him to recollect, and which my ignorance will make me the longer in bringing to a conclusion.

But

But as the season is at present bad, we ought the less to regret the necessity of our stay.—Mr Cooper was your father's friend, is your friend and guardian; respect him my dear James, and adhere implicitly to his advice.—Let us hear from you, and assure us of your affection, that will ever be our greatest pleasure; Lucy loves you, and I am my dear James, with the greatest truth,

your affectionate aunt,

MARGARE BRUCE.

B 5

Mr.

Mr. Ed. COOPER, HARTLEY POINT

Mrs. BRUCE, at LISBON,

Dear Madam,

THE death of my much valued friend is indeed a most affecting stroke ! rendered still more distressing to me by the disappointment of my dearest hope ; How did I encourage the pleasing prospect of his happy return to England, what schemes did I not fondly propose, in order to cement still more strongly the friendship that united us, by a continual and strict intimacy betwixt our
fa-

families.—How vain, how futile! are the most flattering projects, whilst our lives are held upon a tenure, so unstable and precarious:—A religious submission to the will of providence will alone prevent our arraigning a wisdom that (by means too intricate for our clouded comprehensions) conducts every thing for the best. The legacy left by Mr. Lambert to my two younger children conveys the most pleasing proof of his sincere friendship;—He well knew my estate was not very considerable, and the unjust aversion my father had to bring me up to any profession, must of course render those younger children the properest objects of his generosity, and esteem for their father.—At the same time judging of my heart, by the delicacy of his own, his appointing me Guardian to his son and Daughter, kindly puts

in my power to make the worthiest return, by my attention to the trust.—Every thing relative to the estate in Buckinghamshire is intirely fixed.—The writings of which, together with Mr. Lambert's securities in the different funds, are in my possession; the latter, as he justly informed you, are to a large amount; particulars of which I will reserve till our meeting. The very great reason my ever honoured friend had to be grateful for your uncommon attention to his Children, and himself, required a noble recompence; In his distribution to you, he has not exceeded *my wishes*, or *your desert*.—It will be the highest satisfaction of my future life, to unite with you, in our endeavours to form the minds of our amiable charge, after the example of their parents.—as you have not mentioned any thing with respect to the
in:ement

interment of our friend, I presume he must have altered his former intentions communicated to me; viz. that in case of his decease in Portugal, his body, together with that of Mrs. Lambert, should be brought to England, and privately deposited in one vault;—to that end I had his directions to have one built at Stretton Green, as soon as the writings of that estate were executed;—In your next I expect the necessary information, but I shall not be sorry if he determined otherwise; as it would be a most melancholy office to you, and cannot fail of being doubly distressing to his already too afflicted daughter.—I have the pleasure to assure you, my dear madam, your nephew wants not the considerable fortune he will possess, to acquire universal esteem;—He will, I flatter myself, be all you wish:—His
prin-

principles are noble, the generosity and frankness of his heart excessive; almost to a fault;—these, experience, and reflection, will not fail to correct; what in his disposition I think most censurable is a too great hastiness of disposition; to which if you add the natural love of pleasure and gaiety, inseparable from a young man, you have without partiality, the exact outlines of Mr. Lambert's character :—*many* are his good qualities. His failings (if they can be deemed so) *few*, and more justly ought to be esteemed the superfluities of a great mind.—I have wrote for him, and my son to come into Devonshire, where I purpose to acquaint him with the loss he has sustained;—As his passions are strong, his affliction will be in proportion, which it shall be the study of myself and family to moderate.—Hasten my
dear

dear madam your departure as much as possible, and in place of a father, irretrievably wrested from us, give him an aunt and sister whose tenderness may repair his loss. With respect to the secrecy you enjoin me, though I cannot apprehend the necessity of it, I will inviolably observe your injunction.—My very best regards attend Miss Lambert and you, and that your voyage may be prosperous and agreeable, is the united wish of this family, and in particular of dear Madam,

your most obedient

humble servant,

E. COOPER.

Mr.

Mr. EDWARD COOPER,

T O

WILLIAM COOPER at OXFORD.

My Dear Will.

ON Receipt of this I request that Mr. Lambert and you will immediately quit Oxford, and repair to Hartley Point:---I have received some disagreeable accounts from Lisbon, concerning Mr. Lambert's ill state of health. He is represented to be in imminent danger, and should the event verify our fears, I would chuse to have our young friend with us, that by partaking, we
may

may contribute to lessen his affliction. Exert every effort to keep up his spirits, without inspiring him with false hopes ; your sister Nell declares if you do not acquit yourself well, in a commission of such consequence, she cannot receive you with that affection she notwithstanding prepares to do ; I apprehend from her confidence that you will deserve our thanks, instead of reproaches.---Leave your affairs at Oxford in such a train, that should your absence from thence be long, or rather should you not return again, it may be attended with no inconvenience.---Your friend and fellow collegian Lord Wilton, has been of late pretty much at Hartley Point, he professes the most sincere regard for you, and I believe him to be a young nobleman of worth and honour, he has engaged to procure you a cornetcy of light

light horse, (if the army has still the preference in your opinion :) My estate you know will not allow me the satisfaction of supporting you as I could wish, during my life, without some profession ; If you determine to fix upon that of a foldier,---I shall approve your choice notwithstanding I may lament the necessity of your embracing a state that will of course occasion frequent, and long separations from me ! It is however necessary, and by that means when you succeed to my estate, your notions will be enlarged, your experience improved, and your principles of honour perfected. Your father and sisters esteem and love you.

EDWARD COOPER.

WILL

WILLIAM COOPER, HARTLEY POINT,

JACK FEATHERSTONE, OXFORD.

Dear Jack,

THOUGH I can scarce forgive Lambert for the trick he has played me, I must applaud his motives, and pity his distress—had he not, (by his natural hastiness of disposition) so suddenly carried his resolution into execution, what a multiplicity of chagrin and anxiety would he have saved himself!—Old Mr. Lambert is dead—my father willing to break the news to him by degrees,

grees, only informed us he was dangerously ill;—I indeed suspected the fact, what were Lambert's real sentiments I am ignorant—I should rather apprehend he had not been of my opinion——We prosecuted our journey with all imaginable expedition,—Much fatigued however, we agreed to stop at Axminster for the night, proposing to reach Hartley Point the next day—I endeavoured to amuse him upon the road, but could not remove the melancholy that had taken possession of him, until we reached our stage, when he appeared to be more cheerful—I rejoiced at the change, little suspecting the cause—we parted early to our several rooms, and in the morning I received the following billet :

“ My dear William must forgive a
 “ seeming want of confidence in his
 friend-

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“friendship--my present design, is the
“only one I ever with-held from his
“knowledge;---the communication of
“which, might perhaps, have frustrated
“my purpose :--I am informed the
“packet sails to-morrow from Fal-
“mouth, I hope to reach that place in
“time for a passage, and fly to receive a
“father’s blessing; though from the
“tenor of Mr. Cooper’s letter, I dare
“scarce hope to meet with him alive;
“your father will, I flatter myself, par-
“don my precipitance, when he reflects
“upon the occasion; should I arrive
“too late to close my father’s eyes, I at-
“tend a revered aunt, and a sister I ten-
“derly love; their situation demand my
“utmost attention and sollicitude. I
“shall give a draught from Falmouth,
“for what I may have occasion, of
“which do me the favour to apprise Mr.
“Cooper.

“ Cooper. Adieu, continue me in your
 “ friendship and esteem, and believe me,
 “ the amiable family at Hartley Point,
 “ will ever retain my sincerest regard and
 “ affection, while I am yours,

JAMES LAMBERT.

On enquiry, I found he had settled his plan the preceding evening---ordered a post-chaise and four to be got ready with the greatest privacy---returned to me---supped---and quitted Axminster the moment I went to my apartment---As soon as I could possibly apprize my father of it, he instantly dispatched an express to Falmouth, to stop, and acquaint him with the real state of affairs at Lisbon ;---But Lambert's diligence and the authenticity of his intelligence, rendered our good intentions useless---The packet was failed about three hours

hours before the messenger arrived ;— my father declares, deceit, (though for the most laudable purposes) is ever the occasion of inconvenience, if not of calamity to those who use it—— He very heartily condemns his precaution, and I believe, never more would be tempted to disguise a fact, was the prosperity of himself, or family to depend upon it.——We reflect, however, with much satisfaction, that his presence in Portugal, at this juncture, will be highly pleasing to Mrs. Bruce and his sister ; and his protection during their voyage from thence, most desirable.——You shall hear from me again in a little time, and ever regard me, as your truly affectionate,

W. COOPER.

From

Hartley Point.

From the same to the same.

Dear Jack,

THE worthiest of fathers sinks the
austerity of that character in the
amiable tenderness of a friend---where vice
is not apparent, he is more ready to make
allowances for the foibles and inexperience
of youth, than the most volatile
disposition can possibly be tempted to
offend---engaged in the company of such
a parent, and a couple of worthy, good
natured sisters---you cannot wonder if I
have

have rather exceeded the time I promised to write to you again.—We are every hour now expecting the return of a packet from Lisbon, our anxiety is the greater, as there has been a continuance of stormy weather ever since Lambert sailed;—He is adored in this family! and though we hope the best, yet I assure you we are not free from apprehensions about his safety.

You may now congratulate me, my friend, on my entrance into the army—through my Lord Wilton's interest I have obtained a lieutenancy in a marching regiment; (though contrary to the usual method of first carrying a pair of colours) his lordship would have procured me a commission in the light horse or dragoons, but I preferred the infantry, as a less confined service, and where there is a greater chance of promotion.—Shall I give you another

Vcl. I. C reason?

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reason? cavalry seldom leave the kingdom—I am of a rambling disposition, and as I could not have the prospect of indulging it, but at the expence of my father's convenience, I have hitherto done all in my power to restrain my desire of traveling within the bounds of prudence—I shall now have an opportunity of satisfying my natural propensity, partly at the expence of his majesty—and though the routs we may be ordered to proceed upon, will possibly be attended with some inconveniences unknown upon the grand tour—there can be no country where a *rational* man may not receive improvement, or an *honest* one be happy. The only allay to my satisfaction, is the unavoidable separation I must submit to from my family and friends.—The natural cheerfulness of my father's temper, has ever made his acquaintance desirable
in

in our neighbourhood—here are many worthy and opulent families near us, engaged in the closest intimacy—by which means we have parties every day.—The residence of Lord Wilton's family is a very considerable acquisition to our society; it is the first of my lord's stay at Wilton Place, for any length of time; and his lordship has given directions for building two capital rooms, intending to be frequently there—Shall I hint to you, what in addition to the beauty of the country, and the agreeable disposition of its inhabitants, is the principle cause of his present attachment!—I have a sister Ellen, who has some merit, a good person and the worthiest principles;—my lord makes no secret of his regard for her, and you may be sure he does not want advocates—his accomplishments, his large fortune, and the goodness of

his heart, are ingredients in a match, my sister could have no reason to expect; ---But shall I own sincerely to you, the prospect of her establishment, does not give me that satisfaction it might appear to do :---My Lord, with all his great qualities, has a weakness, which is often the source of every ill; I mean his extreme avidity for play!--excuse me Jack, without that I cannot condemn his Lordship, tacitly censuring you :--He says he is totally disgusted with it, but a passion of that sort (when once firmly rooted in the inclination,) is I fear seldom *totally* eradicated.---I am likewise apprehensive my sister has not a heart to give; this is a suspicion however, that I have never yet hinted to any one, and I beg it may be a secret lodged with you alone;--Lambert, without intending it, has I have

have long imagined, made an impression which I very sincerely wish may be entirely defaced; as she can have no *real* objection to the match which offers, and I am clear, that Lambert feels nothing on her account, but the regard and affection of a friend:---

I will endeavour to draw him in to discover the disingaged state of his heart to me, that she without communicating her sentiments even to my father, may observe the improbability of a union with him;---

If possible I will not give her cause to apprehend I am acquainted with her secret myself;---As I think her good sense will assist her to conquer a passion, where she can hope no return;---And she by that means will be spared the mortification of a detection.---I wish the affair may be effectually carried into execution, be-

fore Lambert returns, or I leave the country.---Lord Wilton has three sisters, all amiable and accomplished women! One of whom (tis said) is in a manner engaged to Sir William Morden, whom you may propably recollect a year or two since of Christ Church;--though it is also reported Lady Louisa is averse to the match;---But Jack! private attachments must often, in families of rank, give place to interest, and connections:---I have too good an opinion of Lord Wilton, to suppose he would force his sister to a marriage, against her inclination, and yet, Sir William, do him justice, has nothing, exclusive of his estate and power, in this country to recommend him, she is a charming woman, and was I convinced she was absolutely
averse

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averse to Morden, I should be more truly concerned for her than in my situation I have a right to be. Be assured of my regard and affection,

W. COOPER.

JAMES

C 4

JAMES LAMBERT, at LISBON.

W. COOPER, at HARTLEY POINT.

I Have shed tears ! and paid the honest
tribute of sincere affliction, over the
ashes of a beloved father ;—lost as he is
now to us.—His admonitions,—his pa-
rental care, shall never be defaced in my
recollection ;—a strict observance of his
tenets, is the strongest proof I can give
of my respect and affection.—A gloomy
train of thoughts, has taken place of
that burst of grief, with which I was
over-

overwhelmed upon my arrival;—reflection however assists me, I have not the mortification to reproach myself with ever offending him; and my attention to the situation of my aunt, and sister, obliges me to hide as much as possible, a melancholy that would not (in my present disposition of mind) be unpleasing. —One awful act of duty over, and my sole care will be to dry up the tears of a sister.—How amiable is even sorrow in a mind so unaffected;—time, scarce appears to have abated the concern for our irreparable loss;—but the tenderness of her disposition, which she has lately so much indulged, seems to have added strength to her *reverence* for my aunt, and *affection* to me:—she deserves my sincerest love,—I have just attended the bodies of my father and mother, on board a small vessel;—the captain of

C 5

which

which was under obligations of friendship to our family ; in spite of the natural roughness of his profession, he has a heart full of sensibility ;—he undertakes the melancholy office by choice, as a last instance of his regard to the deceased, and respect for the surviving family.—Captain Wilton has not hitherto been fortunate, be it my care hereafter to brighten his prospects.—You will do me the justice to suppose, necessity alone, induced me to confide to him, the care of our parents remains ;—we are assured of his fidelity.—Our stay we apprehend will be protracted longer than we expected.—My aunt on my duty and affection enjoined me not to quit my sister and her, and it was absolutely necessary, as well in obedience to my father's express directions, as attention to Lucy's present state of mind, to lose no time in performing
so.

so necessary, though affecting a duty.—
 Wilson sails immediately :—he has di-
 rections to land as near your father's as
 possible ; who, (we trust) will take upon
 himself the mournful office of their inter-
 ment at Stretton Green, agreeable to my fa-
 ther's request.—The present subject makes
 me unable to add more, than to assure
 you William of my perpetual esteem.

JAMES LAMBERT.

€ 6

From

From the same, to the same.

My Dear Will,

Salbon,

MY last was wrote, in circumstances which prevented me, even thinking of any thing but our affecting loss;—I will in this, endeavour as much as I can to banish my gloomy ideas.—You will more naturally conceive, than I describe, the situation of my mind, after I left you at Axminster:—my feelings were a succession of friendship, sorrow, hope and fear.—Our passage, though violent, scarce affected me, and I was lost in concern, and anxiety.—My ar-
rival

rival at my father's, freed me indeed from the latter, as it confirmed my loss;—severe affliction was the consequence, reflection relieved me, and a sense of the respect due to the dead, has converted my grief into a tender remembrance;—The duty I owe the living, into a lively concern for their happiness. — My attention to remove part of my sister's extreme sensibility, has been successful; since Wilson failed, her spirits are much mended;—I make her frequently take little excursions into the country, sometimes with our aunt, and sometimes with a young Portuguese lady;—of that family from whence my father had the honour to receive his first wife:—Clara is young, lively, and handsome; with great nobleness of heart, but tinctured with the *Fierté*, so common in houses in any distinction,
in

in Portugal.—Her regard however for Lucy, I take to be very sincere, and her gaiety of disposition (at this time) is particularly valuable.—Was I inclined to vanity, I should have some small reason, to place many of the civilities shewn my sister to *my* own account; at least she seems to wish, I would do so;—but my hour is not come, and I think I can safely say, my heart is yet intirely free.—Clara's brother (if I read him right,) has few of his sisters good qualities, but possesses a degree of pride, beyond what I ever saw;—I cannot be deceived in thinking he regards my sister with tenderness, yet the haughtiness of his disposition will not let him avow it;—Why?—her father was a merchant.—He does, I am assured despise, and would perhaps affront *me*, did not my affinity with Lucy, prevent him;—his father,

Don,

Don Antoine D'Almade, is a Portuguese, of all I have seen, the worthiest of esteem. — He, I am well assured, would not object to his son's alliance with my sister; — but was the young gentleman, to get the better of his pride, and condescend to address her, religion is an insuperable objection, another no less considerable, on my part, my sister loves him not. — I wish we were safe on your side the water, free from the inconveniences, (I cannot help foreseeing,) this passionate madman, will plunge us into. — But on Lucy's account, we are advised by the physicians, not on any consideration to quit Lisbon, till near midsummer. — Write to me my dear William, the news of Devonshire. — I have a considerable favour to beg of my friend Miss Cooper; will you join in my request? it is to oblige my Lucy with a
cor-

correspondence, as an inducement, I have prevailed over her natural timidity, and inclose a letter from her, to your sister.---Your father I esteem as my own. He can exact no duty which I shall not ever cheerfully pay.---Assure him, and all your amiable family, of my entire respect and affection, while

JAMES LAMBERT.

LUCY

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LUCY LAMBERT, at LISBON.

Miss COOPER, at HARTLEY POINT.

Dear Madam,

IT is not reluctantly that I comply with the request of a brother I adore, in commencing a correspondence with a lady, he so intirely esteems; and to the friendship of whose family, we owe so much;—Your father's kind care of my brother, without any other consideration

sideration, will ever demand my lasting gratitude.—Educated abroad, so intirely ignorant of the world, and the customs of my own country, (such I shall ever esteem England.) Will you condescend to give your friendship, to one who wishes to deserve, as much as she fears she cannot merit it;—my dear James, that brother who has relieved me from despair! who is attentive to anticipate my every desire; insists upon it, I take no notice of the subject which he apprehends is still too near my heart;—fear not my brother, the heart of your Lucy, can prompt her but to oblige you.--- Assist me then, my dear Miss Cooper, (however unnatural the request may appear,) to forget my sorrows, and their cause.---My health, my spirits are much better, yet we are directed to remain here, until May or June, they say for my safety;

safety;—trifling reason!—Can you forgive us, detaining our beloved James so long a time from a family he reveres? I most ardently wish to embrace you! and am convinced, the sincere attachment of friends like those at Hartley Point, would more quickly restore me, than the mild air of Lisbon, or the prescriptions of its physicians.---I have a friend here, a friend I exceedingly esteem; from whom I shall not part, without the greatest regret:---But I early give you an instance of my confidence, when I assure you, that I find a speedy separation from her, will be necessary, both on my account and my brother's.---Clara's brother disturbs me with a profession of his regard; his sister has been very lately a warm advocate for him, though he himself condescended to address me but a week since, he is importunate, and most disagreeable
to.

to me.---I honour, I love Clara, which the more distresses me, since I cannot but detest her brother :---I have been too free in declaring my disapprobation of him, and I dread every thing from his pride and revenge.---My dear James endeavours to laugh me out of my fears, but I can observe (though he does all in his power to hide it) he is not without uneasiness on the subject himself. ---My aunt's apprehensions for our safety are alarmed, which I hope will hasten our departure.—Clara has not been so free with me as usual, since the avowal of my sentiments ;—and though I am, thank heaven, not of a suspicious turn of mind, I cannot account for the seeming good terms on which Clara's woman, and a servant of my brothers, have been for some days past ;—there may possibly nothing happen

pen to verify my fears, but I expect neither happiness or tranquility in this country.—Favour me with your friendship, and indulgence, and allow me to subscribe myself, though personally unknown, the respecer of your family, and dear madam,

your affectionate,

humble servant,

LUCY LAMBERT.

WIL-

WILLIAM COOPER, HARTLEY POINT,

JACK FEATHERSTONE, OXFORD.

Dear Jack,

WHY have I not heard from you in an answer to my last? --Has a fresh intrigue, or any late extraordinary matches upon the turf deprived your friend of a pleasure, your correspondence never fails to give him?---My fortune having

having been much confined, by my apprehensions of inconveniencing the father I love;---I have avoided many parties, which (perhaps for the time) might have given me pleasure;---But I have also avoided habits, and inclinations that, I yet never discovered, gave any *real* and lasting satisfaction.---You are Jack, with a great share of good sense, a dupe to fashion, and an assured victim of the designing,---without divesting yourself of conscience, you would be thought a man of pleasure; and without feeling any thing but compunction, when fortune enables you to strip your friend; you are frequently engaged for sums, that even your large independant fortune, does not enable you to discharge with convenience.---Quit, I intreat you every connection, that draws you into disagreeable scrapes;---and remember your real friends
require

require some small share of your attention.

---We have heard from Lambert and his sister!---they are expected in England about June, if no ill accident prevent it:---They seem to be engaged with a Portuguese family in circumstances, that does not promise much good to them, or satisfaction to their friends;---But my apprehensions shall not allow me to prognosticate evils, that I hope will never happen.---The time draws near, when I must deprive myself of the happiness I at present enjoy, in the paternal friendship of my father, the company of my sisters, and (shall I be honest Jack) the amiable condescending goodness of Lady Louisa Wilton—her sisters are most deserving women, but there cannot be more than one Louisa in a family:---I envy Morden, I most since rely pity her,---for I know them both!---It is high

high time for me to join my regiment, though without the care of mind I have hitherto enjoyed, I yet take with me principles uncorrupted, and a conscience free from reproach; under a dependance of your honour I disclose to you my real sentiments:---to be intimate with Lady Louisa, and to adore her, is the same thing:--I, who have been taught (through a mediocrity of circumstances) to be ever more upon my guard, have been the dupe of my temerity.---I love her! but in those circumstances cannot, ought not to expect a return.---Yet from the natural sensibility of her disposition, was there no other impediment;---I should almost dare to hope it might be possible.---My Lord Wilton is absolutely engaged (by sacred promise) for his interest in Mordens favour, I am bound by the strongest ties to avoid interfering for myself!

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self!--my heart suffers much on my own account but bleeds for the distress of Louisa.—Were happiness always the reward of merit, how justly would it be hers; yet that can never happen, if she marries Morden, and there does not appear any thing which can prevent it.—My sister the next week gives her hand to Lord Wilton,—He has intreated Lady Louisa, to make Sir William Morden happy at the same time; this she declined with some warmth, and my Lord requested Ellen's interest with his sister, which she exerted to the utmost, but without success;—Her Ladyship absolutely persisting, that she will enter into no engagement this year---Did I dare to be vain, or flattered with her good opinion of me---what might I not infer from this delay; but she is above my hopes! and if I know my heart, I
rejoice

rejoice at her present respite from Sir William, solely from a reflection, that she has avoided (at least) a year of misery.--- My sister will, I doubt not, make Lord Wilton happy---I hope she will not be unhappy herself, for she is dear to me, as light.---Adieu, you find me a better correspondent, than your negligence deserves.

WILLIAM COOPER.

D 2

JOHN

J. FEATHERSTONE at OXFORD,

T O

WILLIAM COOPER at HARTLEY POINT.

My Dear Cooper,

YOU did not seem to expect an answer to your first letter,—your second and third, reached me at the same time.—To be candid, I was with my Lord Morfon upon a party, and, (as you very rightly judge) pleasure the pursuit!

a thing much followed but seldom attained!—At least I can assure you it was not then our fortune.—I have once in my life you know been guilty of seduction, and have severely smarted for it ever since;—through that very pusillanimous conscience, you seem so well acquainted with.—The unfortunate object of my attention, that crowned my wishes, is still dear to me, and still deserving:—My connection with Patty, preserves me from any other, but the contrition she perpetually shews, and her generous forgiveness of me, gives me painful sensations that I cannot well bear; I am determined the first opportunity, to establish her in some situation of life, independant of me, and by that means, induce her to reflect upon the commencement of our acquaintance, with more satisfaction and composure.—

My Lord Morfon has not the feelings which you are pleased to allow in me; and I am very sincerely glad, that the girl of his fancy escaped the lure.---

I mean soon to quit the University, it will be no great compliment to say, the absence of you and Lambert has in a great measure produced that resolution.

—I am more in a state of dissipation than usual, or than I wish; and though I have yet preserved pretty good principles, I will not say how long I may possess them amongst my rakehelly companions.—Tell Lambert, I will come and stay with him sometime, when he resides at Stretton Green, if alone, I am not fond of aunts.—I admire your theory, but am in great doubt your resolutions will fail in practice; you seem however to have hit upon the only method—Absence! quit Lady Louisa, or

your

your resolutions of gratitude, honour, &c will dissolve like snow, before the sun. —I confess I think you are too strait laced; but as a sentimental man, your sentiment must be your guide, and take care it does not betray you! —A young beautiful girl, perfectly accomplished, who does not dislike you, and with whom you are passionately in love; — You live upon the utmost intimacy with, yet pretend you would not interfere with Lord Wilton's views, in favour of Morden, or wish to secure her affection to yourself! —trust me Will, I am a plain down right fellow, and neither understand or believe you: —But I tell you what I should do— I would take no indirect methods, to injure Morden in her esteem, I would not designedly scheme for her heart!

D 4

—But

—But if she did me the honour to favour me with her good opinion, and thought proper to convince me of it!—Stand fast Sir William, for on my soul, neither a false humility with respect to my own merit, or an undue attention to Lord Wilton, should prevent me from convincing so noble a girl, of my gratitude and affection.---Act as you please, but like every adviser, be assured, I think my advice best.---Pray let me know if any inducement for Banks's interest, would prevail upon your father to part with a friend he so much esteems?—Your letter will find me at Queen's,—as I shall not hastily engage in any more excursions, —Adieu, and believe me yours, &c.

JOHN FEATHERSTONE.

LOUISA WILTON

Mrs EGERTON, WILTON PLACE.

My Dearest Eliza,

YOU know my brother's fatal attachment to Sir William Morden ! you are acquainted with his warm intercession with me in his favour !-- But you know not, and I only suspect, what I dare not in honour communicate to

D 5

you,

you, is Lord Wilton's motive ;---Be not offended at my apparent want of confidence, that I say I dare not, I ought rather to have said, I am not yet convinced and wish to be mistaken.---How unhappy my dear, frequently are girls of quality ! to be a sacrifice to vanity, caprice or necessity, of a father or brother, that find it their interest to dispose of us, and scarce esteem themselves obliged by our acquiescence :---To the honour of Lord Wilton, he is not yet one of that number ;---He has received my excuses without much displeasure, and granted me a respite for a year.---He may then perhaps resume it with more earnestness, but I trust to the changes that time may produce in him, or Sir William Morden ;---In me, no change in favour of the latter can ever take place.--I disesteem the man ; and hate his principles, or to speak more
pro-

properly, his want of them.--Louisa Wilton will never live to be Louisa Morden,---My brother yesterday was made happy in the possession of a deserving young lady, a Miss Cooper, of a very old and respectable family, in our neighbourhood;---Old Mr. Cooper is the worthiest of men and fathers;---his children are what must naturally be expected, from his mode of education; polite, affable, generous, and free from affectation.---I have the utmost reason to hope, I shall be intirely happy in a sister-in-law,---Her temper is mild, tho' lively, her manners noble, her education liberal.---You will thank me for the letter which I design to send by Lady Wilton, in order to introduce you to her acquaintance, and regard.---They purpose being in Grosvenor-street in a few days, my sisters and I continue here some time longer:---But my

dear Eliza, excuse me giving you a friendly caution, with Lady Wilton, will come her brother, lately introduced by Lord Wilton's interest into the army : need I add he is every way Lady Wilton's brother, let my fair friend be upon her guard, against his attractions.---You will not think it strange when I say, we look forward to the time of my brother's departure with regret.--- He is (tho' sometimes unaccountable in his attachments) a generous, and tender friend.--- Adieu my Eliza,---Remember you let not even Lady Wilton sink me in your esteem! ---My sisters salute you, and I am truly yours,

LOUISA WILTON.

LIEUTENANT

LIEUTENANT COOPER,

T O

JAMES LAMBERT, Esq; at LISBON.

My Dear James,

INCLOSED is a letter from Lady Wilton to Miss Lambert.—Be not surprised your old friend Ellen, should be changed into her Ladyship, at the earnest request of my Lord; who, not content with providing for her, has introduced me into the army;—and if you will

will return, and generously condescend to carry off Nancy, my father may be at liberty to take a trip with me as a volunteer.—It will be a great mortification to me if you do not return to England, before my departure, and we every day expect orders to go abroad;—it will be doubly kind;—if this consideration should expedite your leaving Lisbon, as it will be the greatest alleviation to my father's chagrin, upon the loss of one half of his family.—He is at present confined by the gout, which disables him from writing; but he directs me to entreat that Mrs. Bruce, and Miss Lambert, will think of no other home but his, at least for some time;—Nancy will be quite happy in shewing every attention in her power, and (I hope) you know my father's sincerity too well, to doubt, that their refusal will most infinitely distress

trefts him ;—besides, the company of Mrs. Bruce and your sister on a visit at Stretton Green may do well ;—but I would on no account advise you, to think of their being resident there :—you as a young man, will naturally have a numerous acquaintance, and I think prudence will urge you, to wish an establishment for your sister more secure, than she possibly could enjoy under your roof in such circumstances :—Where my dear Lambert, can they be fixed with more propriety than with my father? who wishes most ardently to esteem them of his family. As an additional inducement, Lord Wilton has three accomplished sisters, who will generally live at Wilton Place ; and be happy in cultivating Miss Lambert's friendship.—I wish to see you on more accounts than one. Banks is a worthy and deserving man ;
my

my father respects him ;—I am sure you value his paternal care of each of us ;—and Jack Featherstone (in a letter I lately received from him) has questioned me about him, as if he intended to do something for him ;—Featherstone has two or three good livings in his gift, and I think Banks's friendship and gratitude, will sufficiently repay him, for a presentation for one of them.—There is an affair nearest my heart, that I would wish to communicate to you, and I much want your advice ;—but as I am conscious it would be regulated by what shall ever direct my actions ;—a strict adherence to honour :—I will pursue the dictates of that, though my future happiness be destroyed by it.—Lord Wilton has a sister, that is too amiable and accomplished, to be miserable.—We have a ball at my Lord's this evening, a
kind

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kind of concluding entertainment upon their quitting the country, and we set out in two days for London.—Our regiment is at present in Kent; esteemed by military men, the door to North America or the West-Indies:—No climate can alter the warmth of my heart to you, my dear James, being ever your

most affectionate

WILLIAM COOPER.

MHS

LADY WILTON,

MISS LAMBERT.

My dear Miss Lambert,

WITHDRAW not the friendship from Lord Wilton's wife, you so generously proposed to bestow upon Ellen Cooper;—she is more than ever disposed to be grateful, for the obligation of such charming confidence.—Your merit and accomplishments, my dear

dear Miss Lambert, can never fail to secure you friends ; but none will ever be more zealous, more sincerely attached to you than myself,—Your good sense and judgement will soon convince you, (when a little more acquainted with us,) what little reason you have to be diffident. —How I honour your brother, for his attention to Mrs. Bruce and you ;—how justly my dear, permit me early the freedom of a friend, does your sensibility deserve his tenderness.—Fear nothing under the protection of so worthy a guardian as your aunt, and such a brother as Mr. Lambert.—May your apprehensions from the Portuguese family be founded without a cause ;—But though I have heard of some very noble, deserving people amongst them, I have been assured that in general they were to the last degree jealous, imperious, and revengeful.

Avert

Avert every ill from so worthy a family as yours, and free us from dread on your accounts, by a speedy embarkation for England.—My brother (in the name of us all) has pressed Mr. Lambert, to prevail on your aunt and you, to make Hartley Point your home;—refuse us not that satisfaction, by which means my Lord and I shall have the pleasure of being much with you in Devonshire;—my dear Lucy will I hope occasionally favour me with her company in London: I have my Lord's directions for making that stipulation;—you will find another affectionate friend in him.—My brother is by my Lord Wilton's interest established in the army;—I lose him my dear Miss Lambert! I lose my worthy, my noble minded brother;—we set out for London in a few days, and God knows how long we shall be able to keep him with.

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with us there;—he is in continual expectation of being ordered abroad.—How rejoiced will he be to see your brother before his departure;—though I fear poor William must not hope for so fortunate an event.—Forget not my sincere regard to your aunt, and my ever valuable friend your brother.—I am anxious to embrace you, my dear Miss Lambert, and personally assure you of the intire friendship and affection of

ELLEN WILTON.

Miss

Miss E G E R T O N,

Lady L O U I S A W I L T O N.

My dear Louisa,

I Give you joy of your reprieve;—
 Sir William Morden shall never (with
 my consent) be the husband of Louisa;
 I have often been surpris'd myself, and
 have observed it wonder'd at in others,
 whence could spring my Lord Wilton's
 attachment to him;—they are, at least

in

in appearance, very different men.—My Lord never was esteemed a debauchee, or drunkard ;—Sir William is justly intitled to the character of both ;——It certainly must be some former gaming obligation, which Morden is mean enough to take the advantage of :——Proceed from what cause it will, I hope it will terminate without discredit to his Lordship, or misery to his friend.—So my Lady Wilton has a brother ! thank you my good Louisa for your friendly caution ;---but tell me truly (on pain of future correction, for your want of confidence in me ;) is the caution meant for my sake or your own ?---Louisa Wilton will never live to be Louisa Morden !---very tragical indeed ;---what thinks my Louisa, will she ever submit to live to be Louisa Cooper ?——I am prepared to love Lady Wilton.——I dare answer for
it

it all the Cooper family are accomplished, and I cannot possibly be surprised when so good a sister as you are, looks forward with regret to the time of her affectionate brother's departure. — You was determined when you began your letter to be exceedingly cautious, and remain the mistress of your secret; but my dear Louisa, had she taken ever such pains, could not have so effectually let me into the true state of her heart, as when she attempted a reserve to her friend; ---repent my good lass, confess your fault, and depend upon me as your counsellor, faithful and discreet; — give me a true brief; ---repose the direction of your cause to me; and I'll answer for its success. — If your next letter is the letter I expect and demand; if I find it candid and sincere, as till now has been customary with the friend of my heart.

Be

Be assured Lady Wilton, nor Lady Wilton's brother, shall ever sink you in my esteem;—let not any apprehensions of want of friendship, injure in

yours,

ELIZA EGERTON.

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Lady

Lady LOUISA WILTON

Miss EGERTON.

UNKIND Eliza! was my weakness so very apparent, yet could not intitle me to your compassion;—alas my friend, I am indeed beyond hopes of cure;—yet do me the justice to believe, I did not at the time I wrote to you, esteem my case so desperate;—your counsel is unavailing,—your Louisa

is

is lost in a passion, that has every appearance of ensuing misfortune; should it even be reciprocal, which I declare I yet know not;—It destroys Cooper's prospects in life, with the friendship of my brother;—Lord Wilton's fatal agreement with Morden, hangs over me like an impending storm, ready to sink me into despair.—A disappointment to my brother occasioned by Mr. Cooper, may affect the peace of Lady Wilton:—I am distressed for my sister-in-law, for myself, and the fatal, (though deserving) object of my regard:—receive [on the terms you promise me, a sincere confession of my entanglement;—Cooper is accomplished, I saw him repeatedly without apprehending the danger; indeed I never found that he was dear to me, until too late to retreat;—his good sense, generosity, filial affection to his father,

and the most endearing behaviour to his sisters, engaged my friendship and esteem; free from vanity, and affectation, though few have more personal accomplishments, was it possible (with your Louisa's sensibility) to withhold her heart?—Scarce conscious of my situation, I not only attempted to deceive others, but myself; and would foolishly have supposed the preference I gave him, proceeded merely from esteem; I am to my cost undeceived: however, I yet have not intirely betrayed my secret to him; and for some days past have studiously avoided a possibility of meeting him alone; but am concerned to find my behaviour has distressed him!—I did not mean to withhold my sentiments from his knowledge, except for his own sake;—but as we must soon part, (perhaps for ever) I will not have to reproach myself,

self, with assuming an appearance of displeasure, the propriety of his conduct never deserved.—A ball my brother gives to night to a good part of the neighbourhood, may produce an eclatiffment betwixt us ;—he with apparent apprehension, requested the favour of my hand ;—need I tell my Eliza, I did not refuse him.—I shall very possibly by this means, discover more of the state of his mind, by which I will endeavour to regulate my conduct.—Adieu, be assured of a sincere account of every thing, that concerns the happiness, or misery of
your,

LOUISA WILTON.

From the same, to the same.

My Dear Eliza,

THE die is thrown!—the company assembled early, with the most apparent attention to dress;—Cooper was elegance itself; the studied finery of others, was a contrast not in his disfavour:—the gravity of his behaviour, suited the negligence of his habit; we danced, he accused himself for being so little able to entertain me as he wished, or my condescension and goodness deserved;—but he was upon the eve of quitting, a father and sisters, who de-

served:

served his most grateful attention ; friends (bowing to me) whose merit, and accomplishments, would be ever deeply imprinted upon his memory ; I would have spoke, but could not ;—I thought he did not seem to disregard, or be sorry for my embarrassment :—he continued to dance some time longer, at length the company complaining of heat, my Lord proposed a saunter in the garden till supper ;—Cooper industriously singled me out from a set of stragling couples near us, and I honestly declare I did not avoid it.

“ Your Ladyship will forgive a man,
 “ whose present situation is highly irk-
 “ some to him, if he requests to know,
 “ in what respect he can possibly have
 “ offended excellence like yours.”

“ Offended me Mr. Cooper, far from
 “ it;—I ever esteemed you as much for
 “ your own merit and prudence, as on
 “ account of the connection which has
 “ taken place betwixt our families.”

“ My family has been highly honour-
 “ ed, madam.” (a little pride there
 Eliza) “ but I have too good an opinion
 “ of the propriety of your Ladyship’s
 “ conduct, to suppose without some
 “ degree of fault on my part, (however
 “ unintentional,) I could not have been
 “ distressed by a coolness and reserve,
 “ which I have lately had the misfor-
 “ tune to experience from your Lady-
 “ ship.”

“ Mr. Cooper, upon my honour, you
 “ never offended me, I esteem you
 “ very highly ;—I consider you as my
 friend ;

“ friend ;—and so pressed, I will not
“ scruple to assure you, that my present
“ situation is not so happy as it
“ may appear to the world ;---in such
“ circumstances, I perhaps have seemed
“ to treat you, with an inattention
“ my heart did not dictate.”

“ It is far from compliment, when
“ I say Lady Louisa’s distresses can
“ never be indifferent to me ;---but
“ I quit you soon madam !---and heaven
“ only knows the time of my
“ return ;---I would not wish to leave
“ you in doubt of my most perfect
“ esteem, respect, and adoration :---
“ I request nothing from you in
“ return, but compassion, and your
“ good opinion.”

“Be assured sir, you possess my
 “good opinion in the highest degree;
 “beyond what prudence perhaps might
 “prescribe in our situations.” —
 “Generous Lady Louisa.” — Could
 I help his kissing my hand, though with
 a warmth that alarmed, that affected
 me! — discretion urged me to put an end
 to the conference.

“Mr. Cooper, we must join the
 “company:” — “One word, but
 “one word, my dear Lady Louisa;
 “Sir William Morden.” — “Sir Wil-
 “liam Morden; Sir, nor any other, shall
 “ever be but indifferent to Louisa Wil-
 “ton, while she is sensible of worthier
 “attachments.” — On his knee; —
 “Accept my gratitude, dearest Louisa,
 “and my solemn declaration, nothing
 “shall ever blot this blessed moment
 from

"from my remembrance."—I broke from him, not without the most painful, yet pleasing sensations, but just in time to prevent suspicion:—he loves me Eliza, and whatever happens, I cannot be unhappy.—adieu,

LOUISA WILTON.

E 6 Lady

Lady LOUISA WILTON,

Miss. EGERTON.

Dearest Eliza,

FROM the conclusion of my last, you will perceive that Cooper and I perfectly understood each other;— The remainder of the evening, softened as I had been by his tenderness, and the recollection of our approaching separation—

paration; my eyes did not condemn him for the temerity of his behaviour: On his side, he could not hide from me, the evident satisfaction he enjoyed in my favourable opinion. I fear indeed we neither of us had the power, to be sufficiently upon our guard:—I have reason to believe, my sisters have some suspicion of my sentiments;—But they are my friends, and too delicate to question me about any thing, that would distress me to answer.—The inclosed will convince my Eliza, I have nothing to apprehend, from the principles, or honour, of a man like Cooper: I also send you a copy of my answer.

TO LADY LOUISA WILTON.

“That I may not give my dear
“Lady Louisa reason for a moment
“to suppose me capable of encroaching
“upon

“ upon her amiable condescension, let
“ her be assured, the present liberty I take
“ will not be repeated without her express
“ permission : I have dared to love
“ your ladyship !—I have (contrary to
“ my sentiments, and the rule I had
“ laid down for my conduct,) dared to
“ declare myself ;—Far am I from in-
“ tending, to take any advantage of
“ the generosity of your disposition, or
“ the favourable sentiments your sincer-
“ ity will not allow me to doubt, I
“ have had the good fortune to inspire
“ you with :—My felicity would be un-
“ bounded, did not reflection convince
“ me, I have been wrong (in my pre-
“ sent confined circumstances) to disclose
“ to your Ladyship the sentiments of
“ my soul.—I leave you Madam, per-
“ haps for a considerable time, and
“ which distresses my soul, intangled
by

“by family agreements, with a man,
 “it is not treating severely to say, is
 “totally unworthy of you.—Abstracted
 “from every self interested motive, I
 “wish to strengthen the repugnance
 “you feel against a match with Sir
 “William Morden, as I am convinced
 “the consequences would be your as-
 “sured unhappiness!—Sorry am I that in
 “this respect, conscience and sincere
 “regard for you, oblige me to act in
 “opposition, to the inclination of my
 “Lord Wilton; for whom, as the bro-
 “ther of your Ladyship, and the friend
 “of my family, I have the truest
 “respect.—Be certain my amiable Louisa
 “the man who has had the hardiness
 “to address you, who has had the hap-
 “piness not to be ill received, can ne-
 “ver know another love! never will your
 “beauty and merit, be injured or affron-
 ted,

“ted, by my inconstancy! but let me
“request of your Ladyship, that if Lord
“Wilton sacrifices his extraordinary at-
“tachment to Sir William Morden’s
“interest, if he ever espouses that of
“a man of worth and honour, if my
“Louisa thinks she can be happy, let
“her on no consideration withhold her
“consent! let not her sensibility of heart
“or pity for the distress it will in-
“flict upon a single individual, re-
“strain her from obliging her family!
“—I can never be completely wretch-
“ed, except I know Louisa is unhap-
“py, I have a friend, Lady Louisa!
“that friend has a worthy aunt; and
“a sister, amiable as her brother is de-
“serving, we hope they will consent,
“to take up their residence at my fa-
“ther’s; may I flatter myself, your La-
“dyship will unite with my sisters, in
giving

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" giving them your friendship? not an
" hour in my life, charming Louisa,
" that the idea of your goodness, merit,
" and accomplishments, will fail to be
" the most pleasing reflections, of dear-
" est madam, your Ladyship's ever faith-
" ful, ever devoted humble servant,

W. COOPER.

Lady

Lady LOUISA WILTON

Mr. COOPER.

IF Mr. Cooper is sincere in his good opinion of Louisa Wilton's understanding, he ought to be satisfied!—Lady Louisa where she bestows, where she has acknowledged a preference, cannot easily be induced, (through the

most alluring considerations) to retract that opinion, or change the object.—The delicacy of Mr. Cooper's conduct, and his short continuance in Devonshire, occasions her to be more explicit:—Let her unlimited confidence be sacred!—Mr. Cooper (in the highest degree) possesses Louisa Wilton's regard: need he then be in suspense about her reception of his friends.—As gratitude and love forbid him now to esteem himself a single individual, let him be careful to preserve, the sentiments he has professed, to his unchangable Louisa Wilton.

—What think you my dear Eliza?

—I am astonished at my intrepidity! but 'tis over; he is gone, and left me only the pleasing remembrance, that I have been sincere: If I have sacrificed any female finesse and artifice, 'tis to a man of honour, who deserves

serves more, than I have the power to bestow.—I wish, yet fear to receive a reply;—Be as indulgent as you can, to your sincerely affectionate

LOUISA WILTON.

Miss

Miss EGERTON,

T O

LOUISA WILTON

LOUISA WILTON.

London

I Have received your letters--I have
seen your swain, and I forgive;---
Forgive!--I applaud you. It's well in-
deed for myself, that I forced your se-
cret from you: Sir William Morden,
brute!--pray my dear, I have heard
Lord Wilton esteemed a sensible man,---
in

in confidence now to your friend, (you ought to know him best) is he really a man of sound judgment and understanding?---Surely I think not, or could he be so blind, to trust you to run about at his peep with Will Cooper, and wish you at the same time to bless, (as he calls it) that sweet fellow, Morden! Reconcile contradictions if you can,--I honestly confess it is not in my power---By the by, what is it makes your man so fond of me? Is he already beginning to shew the proneness to inconstancy, so usual in his sex? or does he find any thing in my inquisitive archness, which makes him suppose I am in your secret? Whatever it be, he is more at my mother's than Lord Wilton's, is almost perpetually at my elbow, and to tell you the truth, Louisa, I make great use of him;---Use of him Eliza?---Yes, Louisa,

Louisa,---the best use to a sensible woman in the world :---I divert myself, and disturb a crowd of coxcombs, who are offended at my civility to him truly, because they pretend to consider themselves my admirers : they are my plagues ! for the man of my heart has not yet made his appearance on the stage of my affections ;---You never saw Lambert,---now I think were our pretty adventures to be tortured into a novel, he would be established, the god of my idolatry ;---Why does he not come over ? Cooper extolls him to the skies ; says indeed he used to be a little wild,---so much the better Louisa,---the more credit in taming him : Now you are run away with Cooper, I am exceedingly distressed about my sister Lucy,---I positively will have Lambert you see ; It would be cruel to punish her with Mor-

den ;

den;---Well, I suppose she is a good girl, and as she is yet very young, may wait a little, without injury to her complexion. Your sister-in law is the most agreeable woman I ever saw; I assure you I feel myself awkward in her presence; idiot like, I wanted to play off some of my town airs, but her superior excellence and good sense, makes her never at a loss. Lord Wilton may be happy if he pleases; but should he turn out a fashionable husband to such a woman,—Heaven have pity upon me. Cooper, hear and tremble Louisa! your Cooper, is this evening to escort me to Renalagh; nothing can preserve him to you, but my friendship; yet that you must not doubt, as I am truly your affectionate

ELIZA EGERTON.

From

Mr. COOPER, at HARTLEY POINT,

T O

His SON, in LONDON.

Dear Will,

THAT heaven frequently afflicts us with misfortune and disappointment, for good and laudable purposes, is a tenet, for my greater ease in the journey through life, I will ne-

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F

ner

ver lose sight of. The inclosed letter from Mrs. Bruce, dated Kinsale instead of Lisbon, will not fail to alarm you, as it did me, even before I examined the contents. Great must have been the distress of the ladies, in their fears for our friend.

That villainous Portuguese! how justly founded were your apprehensions; however, should Providence kindly preserve Mr. Lambert's life; I shall not be sorry for an accident that must effectually quench every regard for a country where pride and revenge meet with so much toleration and indulgence.

Let me take this opportunity, my dear son, to convey to you a caution, that

that you give not the least way to irregular passions, the indulgence of which seldom fail to be attended with horror, contrition and despair.

You will observe a request in Mrs. Bruce's letter, that I fear will not be in your power to comply with; but if your regiment is not going abroad immediately, I dare say Lord Wilton will make application to the secretary at war; and should you obtain leave of absence, repair by the first ship from Bristol, to offer every assistance within your power to your wounded friend; and fail not to write by every opportunity, and relieve our anxiety.

The absence of Lord Wilton, Ellen, and yourself, seems to be sin-

cerely regretted by our neighbours ; and I confess, I am myself more concerned upon the temporary loss of two deserving children, than I care, as a man of some reflection, to discover ; not that the pain we feel upon a separation with worthy objects, can justly be condemned, but it is inutile. If we confine it to ourselves, it is doubly distressing ; if we disturb our less interested friends, their attention is frequently considered as a disagreeable penance complaisance inflicts upon them.

Men of your profession, of all others, should not encourage that milkiness of disposition which would lay you under a perpetual repetition of sorrow and concern.

Distin-

Distinguish, my dear William, and thoroughly understand my meaning; Far be it from my wish, that you should divest yourself of a proper degree of tenderness, and sensibility of heart; I mean to caution you, not to suffer tenderness to sink into weakness.

Be not surprized that the gout makes me a philosopher; and as I am not the most impatient of invalids, it has inspired your sister Nancy (by virtue of her attendance upon me) with an additional degree of resignation; the breaking of a china cup now scarce induces her to turn her head, and the demolition of a sett, I believe would not make her scold:—she is a good girl, worthy the

F 3

affection

affection of her brother and sister, and of her father's indulgence.

The Ladies at Wilton Place, are with us almost every day; they are amiable, and honor Nancy with their affection, your father with their esteem; Lady Louisa has been much disappointed in her hopes of seeing Miss Lambert; there is a tenderness about that Lady, Will, impossible to describe!

I am not sorry you are removed from Hartley Point, as I was not without apprehensions, the merit of some of those sisters, might have inspired you with a passion, the consequences of which must have been disagreeable; let me rejoice that you have escaped the peril:
my

my knowledge of your uncommon prudence, honour, and discretion, alone prevented me from wishing you (when with us) to be less frequent in your visits there. Nancy salutes you,—adieu my son, you are the happiness of your father

E. COOPER.

F 4

Mrs.

Mrs. BRUCE, at KINSALE,

Mr. Ed. COOPER, HARTLEY POINT

MUST my letter to you my good Mr. Cooper ever be the cause of distress to a heart so susceptible as yours? Mr. Lambert is dangerously wounded, by the hands of villains! men without principle or humanity.

The

The recovery of my nephew is doubtful, where is your William? spare him to us my good sir, spare him to the wishes of a valuable young man, in a most deplorable situation; and to the earnest entreaties of two unfortunate women, whose hope is wrapt up in the efficacy of your sons friendship to restore him to us.— Our sorrows flow from a Portuguese family; the headstrong passion of a young nobleman for my poor Lucy, is the source of our distress: we were not without our fears, and purposed to have left Lisbon privately: our intentions were discovered, we had barely time to take care of my niece, to embark myself and her, with my poor James, (tho' in a state of insensibility) on board a small vessel, hired purposely for our retreat, before

we were pursued by some miscreants, friends to the wretch, that would have overwhelmed us with distress: their infamous design was thank our good fortune frustrated; we soon lost sight of them, but as our fears from them subsided, our apprehensions on my nephew's account increased; he was dangerously wounded, through the breast, and in his thigh and arm; nothing could have possibly saved him, but the resolution and presence of mind of his servant Thomas, who without suspicion of the consequences had been the innocent cause of his misfortune.

A person who acted as a kind of surgeon on board the vessel, recovered him by slow degrees indeed, to his senses.—He dressed his wounds, as well

as

as well as the extent of his abilities would allow; but did not pretend to so much sagacity, as to determine our hopes or fears of the consequences. a violent fever succeeded, and for many days we dispaired intirely of his recovery.

We landed here yesterday, and have got the assistance of the ablest physician, and surgeons: they give hope, but will not answer for his safety;— mention time and a good constitution as the only means of intirely re-establishing his health.

Allow us your son sir? by your friendship for his father, refuse him not to our most ardent wishes!— Lucy is never from his bed-side, and will not, I am convinced, be able to

support herself, should she lose her brother.

We are most humanely treated, at the house of a Mr. Traverse in this place, whose goodness of heart, does credit to the general characteristic of his countrymen, for compassion and generosity.—Your prayers cannot be more charitably directed, than for the restoration of health to our distressed children, on which depends the happiness of dear sir,

your most obedient servant,

MARGARET BRUCE.

Miss

Miss EGERTON,

LADY LOUISA WILTON.

My dear Louisa,

WILL Cooper has acquainted me with the misfortune lately happened to Mr. Lambert! the warmth of his friendship, does him the highest honour, surely my dear girl, you must be happy in possessing without

a rival, the heart of a man, so amiable in disposition, and noble in principle.—Lord Wilton has obtained permission for him to go to Ireland, he has taken leave of me, and sets out this evening for Bristol.—I never saw a creature so apparently shocked, so affected, and distressed; yet from what he said to me, which I transmit you as near as I recollect, you will find Louisa Wilton administers no small addition to his concern.

He seized a few minutes while my mother was out of the room, (the old lady you must know began to suspect some reason on my account, for the Captain's frequent visits to Grosvenor-Square; I satisfied her, without intirely sacrificing your secret.)

“ My

The FATAL DECEPTION. 111

“ My dear Miss Egerton I leave
“ you, — I quit England! — your amia-
“ ble friend! — I am most cruelly circum-
“ ced, but inform her, no time, dis-
“ tance, or event, can ever make the
“ smallest alteration in my attachment
“ or erase that impression she has en-
“ graved on my heart. —

“ I have dared Miss Egerton, to
“ love Louisa Wilton, the extremity
“ of that love, hurried me into a
“ declaration of it, contrary to my
“ sentiments, or principle. — The no-
“ ble sincerity of that charming wo-
“ man, would not permit her to dis-
“ emble her good opinion, how hap-
“ py did that confession make me!
“ what pleasure in the recollection!
“ yet how strange must I appear to
“ you Miss Egerton, when I tell you,

re-

“ reflection sometimes makes me al-
“ most regret my Louisa’s condescen-
“ tion.—I am torn by a variety of
“ passions! a knowledge of her re-
“ gard, alone supports me, when
“ reflections of the inequality of our
“ situations, my gratitude due to
“ Lord Wilton, and his Lordship’s en-
“ gagements with Morden, strike me
“ with confusion, and despair.—My
“ father my dear Miss Egerton,
“ congratulated me in his letter, on
“ the preservation of my indifference,
“ amidst so much beauty and merit,
“ as I was exposed to at Wilton
“ place; and fails not to hint to me
“ the inconveniences that naturally
“ would have attended such an at-
“ tachment :

“ Alas

The FATAL DECEPTION. 113

“ Alas my dear madam, how truly
“ may his fears of the consequences be
“ realized!—I will never give up my
“ love, however hopeless;—But Louisa
“ must not be made unhappy on my
“ account;—I have conjured her at
“ all events, never to listen to any
“ applications, that may be made in
“ Morden’s favour;—He is a worth-
“ less fellow and of most abandon-
“ ed principles!—But should a man
“ of honour, and worth, ever receive
“ the sanction of her brother, advise
“ her my good Miss Egerton, to
“ put me out of the scale: The hap-
“ py husband who shall possess Louisa
“ Wilton, surely cannot but endea-
“ vour to merit, and must in the end
“ acquire her esteem.—I have already
“ told your friend, I cannot be su-
“ perlatively miserable, if I know that
“ she is not unhappy.

“ What

“What a task my kind Miss Egerton, does honour and gratitude, inflict upon me!—I promised Lady Louisa, I would not without her permission, take the liberty of writing to her; let me intreat you my dear madam, to convey to her the sentiments of my soul; to the hour of my death, shall I adore your friend, with a passion the most fervent and disinterested;—present, good Miss Egerton, my dearest wishes to Louisa and accept my sincere prayers for the happiness of you both.”

I think your lover Louisa, rather too delicate in his sentiments; and I would have told him so, had he not left me abruptly, notwithstanding I cannot but pity him, and have allowed permission for him to write to me.

me, when the violence of his passion gets the better of his discretion, to prevent him making a less prudent choice of a confidant: If you should find yourself inclined at any time to indulge him with a billet, I will at all risques undertake to inclose it.—

Am I not *une amie bien commode*? you may some time or other do me the like office, and verify the old proverb, one good turn &c. the thought brings poor Lambert to my mind, good god what he must suffer! the vile wretches! But I hope the company of Cooper, may contribute to his recovery.—He must be cured, and I will have him I am resolved; I was half afraid of that Clara but I think it's now over with her.—Lady Wilton is distressed beyond description at
this

this event, James was a kind of favourite with her I fancy Louisa? I am a tolerable good lass, I hope I may say without vanity, yet I begin to fear that I scarce deserve the possession of a man, who has interested every body so much in his favour; Lord Wilton himself can scarce console her ladyship, or expell her fears for her old acquaintance. adieu! if my letter had been intirely filled with my own nonsense, you might have been weary, but Louisa as you know that is not the case; I make no doubt you will greatly acknowledge my friendship, and believe me that I am yours in the usual stile,

Grosvenor
square,

ELIZA EGERTON.

WIL-

The FATAL DECEPTION. 117

WILLIAM COOPER,

T O

Mr. COOPER, at HARTLEY POINT.

My Dear Sir,

WE have great reason to hope our friend will be restored to our wishes;---many of the dangerous symptoms which threatened him are vanished, and the surgeon pronounces a perfect, though tedious recovery.---

When

When he is sufficiently able to bear the fatigue of a voyage to England, it is proposed for him to go to Bath.

The happy prospect of my friend's recovery, joined to the pleasure I receive in the company of Mrs. Bruce and her niece, and the worthy hospitable attention of Mr. Traversé, makes my residence here extremely agreeable; the unaffected good nature of our host, and the great civility of a set of gentlemen I have been introduced to, gives me the most favourable impression of this country;—an impression which I think will not easily be eradicated.

As I know you must be exceedingly anxious, to hear the particulars of Mr. Lambert's affair in Portugal;—
receive

receive dear Sir, a brief account of what I have been able to collect, from Mrs. Bruce, Miss Lambert, and Thomas ; who has washed away the indiscretion, which occasioned his master's danger, by the exertion of his courage in his preservation.

We are directed by the surgeon not to speak to Lambert, upon the subject till his health is more confirmed, and there are many circumstances that he only can explain.

Don John D'Almade after receiving so unfavourable a return, to the declaration he made Miss Lambert, seems from that instant to have given himself up to a determined revenge,--the objects of which, were Lucy, and her brother the latter, it is apparent to us, he purposed

posed to destroy ;—the former to carry off!—What would have been her usage, had not his villainous design miscarried, cannot be known! but there would have been every thing to fear from the violence of his passion, and the brutal savageness of his disposition.

In order more effectually to succeed in his design, he dissembled his chagrin and by tampering with Donna Clara's maid, (who had commenced an amour with Thomas) he gained information of Mr. Lambert's design, to quit Lisbon much sooner than had first been proposed.

This it appears, D'Almade must have communicated to his sister, as well as his intention of carrying off
Miss

Miss Lambert:—what could have induced her to consent to so villainous a scheme being practised upon her friend, cannot be guessed at; but it is apparent, she was a stranger to the design upon Mr. Lambert's life, until a very little time before its execution.

Clara's maid by her profession of tenderness for Thomas, artfully drew from him, that his master had hired a vessel to transport them to England, that every thing was in great readiness, and their intended embarkation would be in a few days;—this she failed not to communicate.

A most pressing invitation from the D'Almade's, to a ball, which he proposed to give to some of his most intimate friends, was the immediate

consequence :—Mrs. Bruce and her neice, not only declared absolutely against going themselves, but earnestly intreated my friend to decline it, apprehensive of some fatal consequence ; he could not be persuaded to suspect, any dishonourable treatment from a family esteemed one of the best in Portugal.—How nearly has he escaped from falling a sacrifice to a dependance upon the honour of a man, whose whole soul was possessed, with the prospect of a most sanguine revenge.

An hour after Mr. Lambert left the Ladies, Thomas returned, horror and consternation in his countenance ; told them they had not a moment to lose, and if they valued their own preservation, or regarded his mas-

ter

ter, to follow him instantly:—he conveyed them on board a ship, and taking the surgeon with him, arrived barely in time to preserve his master from certain death, and convey his body, lifeless to all appearance, to his disconsolate relations.---D'Almade he believes fell a sacrifice to his unworthy attempt, as he saw his master run him through the body the instant before he dropt himself; overpowered by the wounds he received from D'Almade, and his abandoned associates;----These, the Surgeon and Thomas obliged to retire, and gained sufficient time to take proper measures for their own preservation.

Lambert had told Thomas, that a design was formed against his life,

and the honour of his sister, that the information was indisputable, as he received it from Donna Clara :---ordered him to lose no time, in conveying his aunt and his sister on board a ship, and to return with what speed he could to his assistance.

This is all we are able to learn, but there seems to be an inconsistency in Donna Clara's behaviour, which time alone must unravel.— Please my dear Sir to communicate the contents of this to my sisters, Lord Wilton, and the family at Wilton Place, to whom my sincerest respects ;—it is not possible for any man to be insensible to the accomplishments of the ladies, you cautioned me about ;—but whatever may be my senti-

sentiments, I hope you will never have occasion to censure my conduct.

Mrs. Bruce is a most accomplished and beneficent woman:—Miss Lambert a compound of every thing lovely!—her tenderness, and regard for her brother, not to be paralleled.—Adieu my beloved father, honour with your good opinion and esteem,

your most affectionate,

and dutiful son,

W. COOPER.

G 3

WIL-

WILLIAM COOPER,

Miss EGERTON, WILTON PLACE.

My Dear Madam,

SINCE the information I sent my father, of the situation I found Lambert in, on my arrival at Kinsale, (which accounts I requested him to transmit to my Lord Wilton's family) my friend recovers surprisingly, and as
the

the Surgeon pronounces him now intirely out of danger, I have at the direction of Mrs. Bruce, prevailed upon Miss Lambert to continue a correspondence, already begun betwixt her and my sister Lady Wilton;—nothing could with more prudence have been proposed by that attentive aunt;—as Miss Lambert's fears for her brother's life, together with her close attendance upon him, have not only sunk her spirits, but impaired her constitution.

She is in person lovely beyond description,---in manners most amiable;---her sensibility of heart extreme;---which I apprehend has been heightened very considerably, by the reclusive method of her living in Portugal.---The late death of her father, and the recent shock she has sustained, in her

fears for the life of a brother, she is distractedly fond of, has given her an appearance of dejection, which I hope Mr. Lambert's cure, and the company she will necessarily be introduced to, will very soon disperse.

To a man disengaged, I know not a more dangerous object than Miss Lambert, when our admiration, our pity is so greatly engaged, love is a natural, and easy transition :—I cannot avoid doing justice to the accomplishments and merit of my friend's sister, though the warmth with which that very friendship makes me describe her, might give suspicion that my heart had not escaped with impunity ;—But am I not the lover of Lady Louisa Wilton ? am I not addressing that amiable woman's most
inti-

intimate, and beloved friend? might not Lady Louisa's beauty, and accomplishments, with safety put the most abandoned inconstancy to the trial?—and am I not too well acquainted with the generous dispositions of you, and your lovely friend, to be apprehensive of your forming unjust conjectures, of the justice I do to a young Lady, of such extraordinary merit.

Mr. Lambert will very soon, I flatter myself, be able to bear the fatigue of a voyage to England;—Mrs. Bruce and his sister, are anxious to try the effects of the Bath, from which they have been promised so much benefit.

I shall continue sometime longer in this country, as Lord Wilton has

recommended me to the Lord Lieutenant, and I have received his excellency's orders to attend him at Dublin, as soon as my friend's health will permit me to quit him.

The obligations my Lord continues to heap upon me, fills me with the most unhappy reflections; and there are some passages in his Lordship's letter that distract me!—Ingratitude I detest, Dissimulation I abhor, yet find myself unavoidably hurried on by a virtuous, and worthy attachment, to the commission of both;—unable in my present disorder of mind, to assume the appearance of tranquillity, my friends anxiety has drawn from me an avowal of my sentiments for Lady Louisa;—his friendship and regard, makes him think of me in too

con-

considerable, and deserving a light, and has prompted him to give me those hopes, which a due sense of my situation, will not permit me to encourage.

I love Louisa more than life!—but a dishonourable attainment of my wishes, would for ever imbitter the felicity of possession.—The most flattering presages of hope, can scarce preserve me from extreme dispondence;

So intirely, so sincerely devoted to your friend, your humanity will I hope suggest to you, that nothing can give me more heart felt satisfaction, then to hear she is well and happy ;--let it be to my dear Miss Egerton's friendship that I am indebted for that pleasing information.

My most respectful compliments
and good wishes attend Mrs. Egerton,
and yourself;—I remain dear ma-
dam, your sincerely affectionate, and

most obedient

humble servant,

W. COOPER.

Mills

My most respectful compliments
and good wishes attend Mrs. Egerton,
and yourself.—I remain dear ma-
dame, your sincerely affectionate, and

Miss L A M B E R T,

most obedient

T O

L A D Y W I L T O N.

W. COOPER.

Kinsale.

WITH what eagerness, my dear
Lady Wilton, does my grateful heart
long to thank your worthy family, for
the recovery of a brother I so truly
love.—Restored to us under heaven
by the attentive affection and friend-
ship

ship of yours.——The severe apprehensions I have felt on my dear James's account, has given strength to the disorder upon my spirits, which I indeed, endeavour to conceal from him and Mrs. Bruce, as I revere and regard them too much, to give them unnecessary concern.

England, and happier prospects, will I hope restore me ;—Mr. Cooper presses me so strongly, to renew a correspondence which does me honour, that I cannot help complying with his request ;—though the consciousness of my want of experience, does not fail to convince me how unequal I am to the task, and how much my simple epistles, must suffer upon the comparison.

But

But 'tis Mr. Cooper, 'tis my brother's preserver, that requests it;—It is to Lady Wilton I write, who will generously make every allowance for my inability.

How rejoiced shall I be my dear Lady when we arrive in England;—my brother's strength increases so much, that we hope we shall be able to embark, by the beginning of next month for Bristol.

Mr. Cooper has already wrote, for your father and sister to receive us there;—how I anticipate the pleasure of meeting with a family so worthy, and to whom we are so much obliged;—but Mr. Cooper mortifies us with the information, that his affairs will not admit him to accompany us;—he
pur-

purposes to set out for Dublin; the moment we quit Kinsale;—he has I find informed your father of most of the circumstances, of my brother's intended affassination.

It is a subject I tremble to think of, but as heaven has been graciously pleased to avert its execution, I will endeavour to make you acquainted with the whole;—to which end, I inclose a letter from my unfortunate friend Clara, in answer to one I could not avoid writing soon after our arrival at this place, reproaching her with the cruelty of her brother's behaviour, and the misery we have by that means suffered.

Your ladyship's humanity will be interested on her account, and I doubt

not

The FATAL DECEPTION.

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not you will preserve a secret, in your family, which she deposits with so much confidence;—particularly as a disclosure of it is intirely unnecessary: D'Almade's fatal passion for me, is sufficient to account for his villainous conduct to my brother, and I am assured his delicacy would not allow him to expose the regard of a Lady, whose love for him, (though it might contribute to his misfortune,) has fixed her irretrievably miserable.

I have returned such an answer as will I hope be a means of mitigating her distress;—I have offered her, if she pleases to accept of it, a continuance of my friendship and correspondence, though after what has happened, I wish she may decline it.

My

My aunt and brother join me in most sincere good wishes and respectful compliments, to your ladyship, Lord Wilton and the family.—I am very particularly, my dear madam your ladyship's ever

obedient and obliged,

humble servant,

LUCY LAMBERT.

CLARA

CLARA D'ALMADE,

T O

LUCY LAMBERT,

Lisbon,

YOUR letter, my justly offended Lucy, though filled with reproaches severe as your gentle nature was capable of writing me, raised me at the instant from a situation of the most dreadful despair, to a condition

tion (comparatively speaking) little short of happiness, when by it I was informed, that your too amiable brother had escaped assassination;—an attempt that deprived me of mine, who however unworthy, was still my brother.

Lambert lives you say, may he be happy;—though he has for ever ruined my repose.—I loved your brother, my dearest Lucy, with the most violent passion!—I had determined to explain myself before you quitted Lisbon, and from the flattering compliments I have had paid to my person and understanding, I was not without hopes of engaging a suitable return:—my family you know is noble! my fortune considerable!—and I
fool-

foolishly imagined, the offer of my hand not unworthy his acceptance.

By the address of my woman, Don John was acquainted with your preparations for privately quitting Portugal;—how shall I describe his rage, or my astonishment when we heard it!—a momentary resentment took place in my breast, of the most tender and disinterested affection;—how often did I curse the fatal object of my wishes, myself!—the whole world!—torn with despair, and raging like a tygress deprived of her young!—indifferent to the wrath of a brother, jealous of his honour, which he unreasonably supposed injured by my groveling attachment, as he called it, for a private man:—the agitation of my mind, made me superior to fear, I avowed
my

my love! and dared Don John's utmost vengeance,

Will you forgive me, my beloved Lucy, will you obtain forgiveness of your brother when I am reduced to acknowledge, that overcome by the violence of my passion, and my brother's imprecations, I agreed to his proposal.

We gave you an invitation to a ball, which we hoped would have been accepted:—my brother told me, if I could prevail upon Lambert to oblige you to become his wife, he would with pleasure agree to my union with him; that he would give me a sufficient time to explain myself to him, but if he obstinately persisted in refusing to concur with our designs;—
he

he should be forced on board a vessel and landed in England.

Mrs. Bruce and you were to be carried off to an estate of his in the country, when, by force or entreaty he would prevail upon you to be his.

As your brother came alone, and it required an intire change of measures, he left us to consult with the friends of his rashness and temerity, the surest way to effect his design.

In spite of the natural timidity of our sex! in spite of the pride of family and fortune! I declared my regard for your brother, in the most affecting terms;—my sighs—my tears Lucy, were unavailing! the barbarian

man would only afford me his friendship and esteem! no doubt my anger would have made me take some horrid resolution, had not my woman at that moment called me aside, and informed me of my cruel brother's real intentions, which she had fortunately overheard; remorse for the part she had acted, made her communicate them to me.

You, my dear Lucy, was not to have had the honour of D'Almade for a husband; your brother was to be assassinated! my love for Mr. Lambert, my friendship for you, took place of every other passion: I apprized your brother of his danger, and conjured him to take immediate measures for your flight, and his own safety:—He left me,
Lucy

Lucy, the most unhappy and distracted of my sex.

My brother's body was very soon after brought home, pierced through the heart, by the man who had before deprived me of mine. Your brother I was also informed was dead, or at least mortally wounded.

What have I not suffered since that fatal night!—Don John's vile associates (who it seems attempted to overtake the vessel you escaped in) have been obliged to fly; my distressed father declaring that he will look upon them as his son's murderers, who were the encouragers of his riots and licentiousness. Your brother, my dear Lucy, has killed mine; he has fixed an inseparable

VOL. I. H bar

bar betwixt us, and there is nothing I can think worth the living for! a convent or a grave closes the sad scene, upon your wretched unfortunate friend; an early victim to a too susceptible heart!

I acquit your brother of any dishonorable attempt to engage it, I freely forgive him the blood he was (in his own defence) obliged to spill; and it is my earnest prayer, that in return, you both will forgive the inconveniencies our unhappy passions have occasioned you.

I have inclosed a ring, which as the last favour I shall perhaps ever request, I intreat your brother to wear, that it may sometimes remind him of my love and my misfortunes.

My

My father's misery, though great,
is not comparable to that, of dear,
worthy Lucy, your truly affectionate,
but most unhappy

CLARA D'ALMADE.

H²

JACK

ty:—I will most certainly give him the meeting at Bath, and shall expect an intimation from you or him, when he proposes to quit Ireland—

JACK FEATHERSTONE,

You ought not to be surprised at my leaving Queens, or fixing my head quarters at the Temple, as in

WILLIAM COOPER.

one of my friends, who was weary of a college life, to being perfectly undetermined as to my future conduct, I have purchased a set of chambers, by which means, I shall have the liberty to pursue my own in-
Temple,

BY Lord Wilton I have been informed of Lambert's late danger, and the present prospect of his recovery!—I think myself exceedingly happy not to have been acquainted with the affair, till I am assured of his safety:—

ty:—I will most certainly give him the meeting at Bath, and shall expect an intimation from you or him, when he purposes to quit Ireland.—

You ought not to be surprised at my leaving Queens, or fixing my head quarters at the Temple; as in one of my last I hinted to you—I was weary of a college life; so being perfectly undetermined as to my future conduct, I have purchased a set of chambers, by which means, I shall be at liberty to pursue my own inclinations without restraint, or inconvenience; do not suppose I mean the indulgence of vicious ones! I have lately had a severe lesson against it, which has made a greater impression upon me, than all the advice your friendship could have dictated.—

H 3

You

You have frequently asserted, the rascally set I had got into, occasionally levied heavy contributions upon my purse; shame made me usually evade the charge,—But as the high road to repentance, is confession and contrition, I now candidly declare to you, that those contributions have really amounted to five thousand pounds, within these last three years! censure me not, my own conscience tortures me sufficiently:

How long I might have been the dupe to a dishonourable confederacy, that took every opportunity to rob me, I know not; had not the discovery of a piece of villainy, which touched me nearer than the loss of money, made me acquainted with my own folly, and their infamy: Patty,
that

that very deserving girl, for whom I have the most sincere regard, was near falling a victim to their brutality!

Lord Morson was acquainted with the place of her residence, not a stranger to the worthiness of her principles, or the regard I had for her; while his passions were in pursuit of another object, she was left undisturbed.

After his disappointment, Patty received many overtures from him, some personally, others by his scandalous companions;—she prudently rejected them all, but her opposition so increased his flame, that he (neither being restrained by honour, compassion, or apprehension of my relentment,) attempted to offer violence!

her strength and resolution, with the interposition of an honest fellow, at work in the fields, near them, prevented the completion of his design:—

I demanded satisfaction of him, and his Lordship's courage, not being upon a par with the baseness of his heart, or the warmth of his constitution, submitted to make the most mortifying concessions, well convinced that my purse had enabled him to execute many vile schemes, I insisted upon it that he instantly lodged five hundred pounds in my hands, for the use of Patty; as the only means of preventing a prosecution for the assault:

I have enjoined the whole set, never under peril of being exposed to
the

the world, ever to pretend the least intimacy, or acquaintance with me in future.

The money is lodged in Patty's name, at a banker's who has sent her the securities;—I have also settled up on her an annuity of one hundred per annum, while single, at my pleasure to continue, or be reduced to fifty if she should choose to marry.

This clause however I dare swear I shall never take an advantage of! her mother having been in the early part of life conversant in business, and as Patty was with a milliner two years before our acquaintance commenced, they have determined to open a millinary warehouse in a principal town in the north of England, where

they are assured of certain success.—

My liberality as she styles it, has reconciled the mother, to the situation her daughter has lived in with me,—But I am afraid it will never have the same effect upon Patty.

Our parting was truly affecting !
The poor girl loves me, and I am much concerned to find though I have settled upon her what she calls too lavish a provision, it will not establish happiness and peace of mind !—she has promised to consult me upon every extraordinary occasion, and most richly deserves my perpetual friendship and regard,—though entirely at her own request our parting, for reasons indeed which does her the highest honour, I feel sensations
upon

upon losing her, which it is not in my power to describe,—If I do not till leave her, 'tis something exceeding like it!—Adieu you shall hear from me again soon

JOHN FEATHERSTONE.

H 6

Mrs.

Mr. COOPER,

J. FEATHERSTONE,

Kinsale,

OUR friends intend sailing in a few days for Bristol, I sincerely wish their passage may be short, as a tedious, or severe one, I am afraid Lambert is not entirely able to bear.—

As

As Lord Wilton has communicated to you the Portuguese affairs, a recapitulation is unnecessary ;—Miss Lambert, if you have eyes, sensibility, or sentiment, will very soon make you feel for poor Patty, nothing but compassion and friendship.

Your conduct to her does you credit, and bespeaks the goodness of your heart ; your behaviour to Lord Morson was spirited and just : how vile indeed must be that man, that can dare to commit infamous actions, and afterwards submit to ignominious concessions ! a villain excites our horror ! but to a cowardly villain, we justly add our contempt.—Lambert rejoices your friendship will induce you to meet him at Bath ; may nothing happen to prevent it.—

I lately

I lately received a letter from Lord Wilton, to whom I am everlastingly obliged,—am I not then a villain, little inferior to Morson, that can receive a continual succession of benefits, and know myself the bar to what he seems to have most at heart Sir William Morden's alliance with Lady Louisa?

I am obliged, (cruel necessity) to dissemble with his Lordship, and deceive my father, apprehensions of what Lady Louisa might suffer, from an avowal of my sentiments to Lord Wilton, alone prevents me; were myself only concerned, it would not admit a moment's hesitation; Lord Wilton should know me for the passionate admirer of his sister,—he would in all probability withdraw his interest

terest from me, but he could not then have reason to stile me a traitor, to his confidence and friendship.—Advise! direct me! I who used to take upon me occasionally to condemn your conduct;—how severely do I censure my own.

Lord Wilton has told me he is most unhappy to find Lady Louisa intirely averse to Morden, that not only his honour is pledged to him, but that his own interest, my sister's, and his whole family, depends upon Lady Louisa's consent.

I am distracted! — Lord Wilton also informs me he purposes to take Lady Wilton to Bath, and has wrote to my father, to request he will allow the ladies at Wilton Place to accom-

accompany him, and my sister Nancy to the same place; when they meet Lambert.

Oh Jack, you can have no idea of what I feel!—Morden is certainly intended to be there, and though Lady Louisa was promised a year free from persecution, I see Lord Wilton's mind, is intent upon obtaining a more speedy concurrence to his wishes for Morden's success.

From the expressions he makes use of, I fear he is in Morden's power, who presses the performance of some horrid agreement;—hastens to Bath. —I am secure in your friendship and Lambert's.

Find out if possible Lord Wilton's strange infatuation to that wretch;—
and

and endeavour by all just means, to prevent a sacrifice of one of the most amiable, most deserving women upon earth;—deliver the inclosed to Miss Egerton in Grosvenor-square:—she is my Louisa's bosom friend, need I say more!—Direct to Lucas's, Dublin, for

your affectionate

WILLIAM COOPER.

WILL

How shall I describe my dear
 Miss Egerton, what I suffer?—The
 Ladies from Wilton Place meet Lord
 Wilton at Bath; My tears tell me
 WILLIAM COOPER, Mr.
 this appears more anxious to con-
 plete this dreadful engagement than
 ever; Lady Louisa will be made un-
 happy by her brother's entrance;
 Miss EGERTON.

Dear Madam,

I Take the liberty of introducing
 to your acquaintance Mr. Feather-
 stone, who I have charged with a
 delivery of this; he is the friend of
 Mr. Lambert and myself; a gentle-
 man of fortune and honour.

How

How shall I describe, my dear Miss Egerton, what I suffer?—The Ladies from Wilton Place meet Lord Wilton at Bath; My fears tell me Morden will be there: His Lordship appears more anxious to complete this dreadful engagement than ever; Lady Louisa will be made unhappy by her brother's entreaties, for which I fear he has more substantial reasons, than mere casual attachment.

Ought I not to explain my most secret sentiments to Lady Louisa, whose confidence in me has been unlimited?

Lord Wilton has distressed me beyond measure, by confidentially acquainting me with the great desire

he

he has to bring affairs to a speedy conclusion, betwixt her Ladyship and Morden. I love Lady Louisa beyond expression!—would sacrifice to that love the most splendid prospects!—but I have too just an opinion of her to suppose she would permit me to continue a conduct, that will in the end cover me with disgrace!—I must give up Louisa; Be to Lord Wilton a false confidant, or, by an avowal of my regard to her Ladyship, relinquish his Lordship's friendship and esteem for ever:—Cruel alternatives!—The first I will never do but with life; the second, is to a degree dishonorable, and the last may subject the object of my dearest wishes to distresses, the very apprehensions of which distract me. Consult your friend,—with
her

her I dare safely repose my honor
and my love.

How much reason have I to apologize, my dear madam, for the trouble I am under the necessity of giving you :—How sincere are my acknowledgements for your uncommon friendship.

I am most respectfully,

Dear madam,

Yours,

W. COOPER.

Miss

Miss EGERTON,

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

Inclosing the Preceeding.

My dear Louisa,

YOUR own judgment and good sense, must determine you how to act upon the perusal of the inclosed;—in a case of so much consequence, it is dangerous advising;—if Cooper could for a while evade the disclosure of

of his, and your sentiments, I should suppose it would be best;—but as his honour is such a stumbling block, you must direct him yourself.

I do from my heart believe the man to be very far gone indeed, else he would observe that there has not yet happened any great alteration in your affairs, since his honour did not prevent him making a declaration of his regard, or receiving yours in return.

But he is unfortunately made Lord Wilton's confidant in his designs about Morden!—Well, Cooper has always averred, (he says without any selfish view,) that Morden is a bad man;—does not his being consulted by my Lord, put it in his power, with-

without any impeachment of his honour, to give Lord Wilton his genuine sentiments of Morden ;—will not that naturally produce from his Lordship, an explanation of the reasons, which induced him to promote so abominable a connection ;—it will then be time enough to take such measures as may be thought advisable.

You may send your opinion about it to me, or which perhaps you will think better, transmit it to him yourself ;—if so you must direct to him at Lucas's Coffee-House, Dublin.

An amour without some difficulties loses half its charms, such I fear if ever I am honoured with a lover, will be my case, as my worthy mother I dare say will have few objections to my

my choice, provided he is a gentleman ;—you observe Cooper says Featherstone is one, and a man of honour, I like every thing about him very well except his name ;—I am not fond of three syllable, one reason why I wish to change my own, so Monsieur Featherstone stands but a small chance.

I assure you the chap complimented me not a little upon my person, understanding, accomplishments, and friendship ;—the last you know is a copious subject.

I take it he is to Cooper, what my Ladyship is to you, at all events then, we can be but secondary characters, which I likewise dislike ;—his eyes are lively and good natured, those I do not dislike ;—his conversation sensible

VOL. I. I and

and spirited, that I don't dislike ;—to be honest, there are many things else about him I don't dislike ;—and I really believe I should be a little mortified, if I thought he disliked me.—

Eh bien, vive l'amour, ah, le Pauvre,
Lambert,

adieu, my dear,

ELIZA EGERTON.

J. LAM-

The FATAL DECEPTION. 171

JAMES LAMBERT, at BATH,

T O

WILLIAM COOPER, DUBLIN.

My Dear Will.

AFTER a short and agreeable passage, we arrived safe at Bristol on Sunday last, and the next day proceeded to this place;—I find myself not so much worse from the fatigue, and inconveniences of the voyage, as I ap-

I 2

pre-

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prehended, and have the pleasure to inform you, my dear Lucy received great benefit by it;—I could scarce have dared to hope, so great an alteration in her health for the better;—it cannot fail to have a good effect upon me:—her anxiety and care of me, while confined at Mr. Traverse's, has creased my tenderness for her, to a degree I thought impossible.

We had the pleasure to meet your father, Nancy, and the Lady Wilton's upon our arrival:—Lady Louisa is worthy all your tenderness, I certainly give her the preference, though the other ladies are truly amiable.

There is a tenderness about Lady Louisa, that engaged my attention;—will you not call me an extraordinary
bro-

brother, when I say a resemblance in her manner to that of my dear Lucy, exalts her very considerably in my opinion.

Lord and Lady Wilton are still detained in town;—so is Featherstone, who I fear is not well, otherwise being an idle fellow, he could have little else to do;—I really am much disappointed, for being still weak and not in good spirits, I make a very indifferent gallant to so many Ladies;—his company at this time would have been invaluable.

Lucy being a little indisposed last night, declined going to the rooms;—my good aunt, Banks, and your father, attended Nancy and the Lady Wilton's;—our absence it seems was

a great disappointment;—as thanks to Tom's vanity, our adventures are pretty well spread about Bath;—with as much exaggerations, as attended the story of the black crows.

I was exceedingly angry with the fellow, till I recollected him the preserver of my life, and cursed my impetuosity!—I shall be much distressed on Lucy's account when we appear, as she is timidity itself:—we must however bear the brunt of curiosity for a night or two, till something new starts up to excite the public attention.

Our old friend Banks is at present with your father, how rejoiced was I to see them both!—Mr. Cooper received my sister and me, with the most endearing fondness.

“ My

“My children,” says he, folding us both in his arms, “how happy am I in embracing the valuable remains of my dearest friend.”

Alas! a flood of sorrow at this recollection unmaned him!--You are our father now said Lucy, dropping on her knee, and bathing his venerable hand with tears; supply that place to us, and receive our tenderest affection.

He retired precipitantly out of the room to compose himself, and at his return endeavoured by his chearfulness to dispel the gloom, our agitation had necessarily occasioned. — the scene was affecting! — Lady Wilton’s were not indifferent spectators.

Mr. Cooper's address to Mrs. Bruce, was equally tender and solemn;—"I
 " prepared my dear madam," said he,
 " to love, to revere,—the sister, the
 " friend of my friend!—favour me
 " in return with your esteem.

Featherstone I find has given Banks a very good living, and Mr. Cooper agrees to resign his company, (as soon as ever he is resident upon his estate,) for ninemonths in the year, the other three to be at Hartley Point.

I never loved Featherstone so much, or had so great an opinion of his judgement, as in this instance of his regard for Banks.

Farewel, I have been many hours in writing of this;—as my head
 and

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and arm are very weak ;—I have
 been occasionally obliged to quit my
 pen ;—I am
 most affectionately
 Yours,

JAMES LAMBERT.

N. B. Lady Louisa blushing-
 desired me to send the inclosed.

15

Lady

LADY LOUISA WILTON,

WILLIAM COOPER.

I Am, my dear Mr. Cooper, above disguise, and can very ill submit to prevail upon you to practise, any measures disagreeable in themselves, or in your opinion dishonourable.

You

You make me tremble at the letter you sent Miss Egerton! not on my own account, but yours and my brother's: If he cruelly persists in his design, of sacrificing me to any imprudent, or unworthy engagement, I shall certainly pity the distress or inconvenience, my refusal may occasion him; but at the risque of every thing dear to me, Morden shall never receive my hand: my refusal will undoubtedly occasion an explanation of my sentiments for you; and will possibly deprive you of my Lord's friendship.

I confess my exceeding regard for you, with pleasure confess it! as I esteem you deserving my tenderest affection.—I leave to your own prudence to act as you think right;—If,

without hurting the delicacy of your sentiments, you can avoid (for a while) explaining yourself to my brother, it perhaps may be for the best; but if that is not your opinion, if you cannot do it without lowering yourself in your own eyes, you have my free consent to acknowledge your attachment to me, and to declare yourself possessed of my intire affection.

My refusal of Sir William would have been steady, from my assurance of his worthlessness, had I never seen you; my constancy will be inviolable, where I have bestowed my heart.

In your letter to me, you said you would never address me again in that way, without my express permission; I now give you that permission unsolici-

solicited, from an assurance you will not make an ungenerous use of it.—

I was rather awkward, when obliged to beg Mr. Lambert to inclose this to you, though it was not till after he had (with the utmost delicacy) hinted, he was no stranger to the preference I have given you.

Your friends did not need your warm recommendations, the brother and sister are universally, and justly admired;—I never saw so much insensibility of her own accomplishments, as in Lucy Lambert.

You may be convinced I esteem your love in no very trifling light, as it makes me vain of my own qualifications; on that account I may,
I think,

I think, venture to say, if I was not
 Louisa Wilton, I would wish to be
 Lucy Lambert. I am with sincere re-
 gard, dear sir your affectionate,

LOUISA WILTON.

LOUISA

I think venture to say, if I was not
Louisa Wilton, I would wish to be
Lucy Lambert. I am with sincere re-
gard, dear Sir, your affectionate
LOUISA WILTON,

T O

Miss EGERTON.

Bath

W H Y do I not hear from my
friend?—have you shut up your swain
in one of the parlours in Grosvenor-
square, and denied him the use of
ink and paper, that we neither see or
hear from him?—It is ungenerous to
detain

detain him from Mr. Lambert in his present situation, release him then my dear girl, or if not in your custody let him account for an absence that distresses a man intirely worthy his attention, and regard.

I have wrote to Cooper, and left the determination of the matter to his own discretion, whether or not, or when he may think himself most prudent to declare himself to my brother.

Lord and Lady Wilton are expected in a day or two I find!—my heart sinks, sure Morden cannot be of the party?—but I will leave to the morrow, the evils thereof, perfectly determined with respect to my future conduct, and convinced of it's propriety. Let

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Let me now give you some account of our new friends, and the occurrences that have happened since our arrival at Bath.

The first night, we went to the rooms attended only by Mr. Cooper and Mr. Banks, Lucy being not well, declined going, and her brother would not leave her alone: this was an unexpected mortification to the company, as their curiosity had been strongly excited on Mr. Lambert's affair in Portugal, which, through the simplicity of his servant, has been the topic of conversation in the town, ever since their arrival;—as the man really behaved with great courage, he was not disposed to suffer either his own prowess, or that of his master (for whom he has the greatest love) to be buried

ed in oblivion: whether he was the author of any embellishments to the story I know not, but the accounts are now variously related, and so strangely distorted, that Lambert would scarce suppose himself a party concerned in the matter, did not the effect of his wounds, convince him of having been the principal.

Last night our whole party made their appearance, and though we went early, the rooms were full, Lambert, who is extremely well made, tall and handsome, did not appear in the eyes of the ladies, to any disadvantage; though so weak and pale.—his arm being in a scarf, was a sufficient excuse for his not dancing.

Lucy

Lucy was universally admired, she danced two minutes, one with the Earl of P——, the other with Sir. John Thornhill; but declined joining in the country dances: her dress was something betwixt the Portugese and English; but to a degree becoming.

I am very much mistaken if Lucy will be much beloved by the women, as she attracted the attention and applause of the gentlemen, who likewise shewed the greatest civilities to Mr. Lambert, I suppose, not a little upon his lovely sister's account.

My brother, and sister, are this moment arrived; how happy could I be, in so agreeable a society as our present one, did not my heart regret the

the absence of a man I regard, and
 was it not oppressed with dread and
 apprehensions, of another I despise.
 adieu my Eliza, pity my situation !
 and believe me ever your affection-
 ate,

LOUISA WILTON.

and the absence of a man I regard, and was it not oppressed with dread and apprehensions, of another I despise, when my Eliza, give my situation, and believe me ever your affection-

From the same to the same.

My Dear Eliza,

MORDEN is not yet come, though, I have too much reason to fear, very soon expected! My brother, has once or twice mentioned him to me, and with the utmost address, endeavoured to convince me, of the improbability of his ever being able to recede from his engagements. — My charming sister-in-law has, I find, received her lesson too, though I can easily

easily perceive it distresses her; I very candidly, this morning, assured her of my great dislike to Sir William, — that I loved and revered my brother, but never would consent to so detestable a match as was proposed, should my refusal have the most fatal consequences. She shook her head, her eyes swimming in tears, but had not power to say a syllable, in a cause, I am sure she disproves as much as I do. — My brother is exceedingly fond of Lambert, who is no stranger to my partiality for his friend; I have reason to expect *his* good offices will prevent Lord Wilton from precipitating matters; — and I am willing to put off as long as I am able, an avowal of my sentiments and resolutions; which will inevitably disturb the present happiness of our friends.

Lord

Lord Wilton gave a breakfast at the rooms on Wednesday, and Mr. Lambert this morning: he is with justice much admired; his good sense and manly address, makes his conversation desired by the men,—the softness of his manners (when with the ladies) may probably cost some of them dear: the scarf he is still obliged to wear, I have a notion contributes not a little, to the admiration with which he is beheld; as something out of the common way, is requisite to touch the hearts of these rambling attendants upon watering places! Slaves to fashion, scandal, and dissipation: their eyes frequently chide him for his apparent indifference,—he cannot be totally so. My sister Wilton says, he is not so much altered in person from the effect of his wounds, as he is in temper.

temper. He has at present, no appearance of impetuosity in his disposition, which formerly was his characteristic.

I might be deceived, but I think Lady Wilton cannot, who has been so long acquainted with him : he however declares himself in a state of absolute indifference ! His sister has the greatest share of his company, and attention ; indeed, were she not his sister, I should not scruple to declare her the mistress of his affections.

My good little sister Charlotte, I must endeavour to prevent giving way to an attachment, which I readily perceive, a very little encouragement would render violent : the object is worthy, amiable, but indifferent ! Lambert's

bert's continuance near her might be of bad consequence, but our stay will not be long; during which, I will guard her with the precaution of a mother, and the attention of a beloved sister.

Old Mr. Cooper,—how much do I esteem and revere that good man! Independent of those reasons, your slyness may suppose my good opinion proceeds from, he mingles instruction and amusement, so pleasingly in conversation, you are insensibly edified, and find his tenets and principles, more strongly fixed in your mind, than by the severe and morose lectures many of our modern orators affect to deliver.

Mr. Banks, the worthy friend of this agreeable man, is by the familiarity of his manners, deserving the connection: he is every thing chearful, pious and entertaining.

Mrs. Bruce has had her natural gaiety and sprightliness, early in life, corrected by misfortunes; and is at present the most amiable woman of her age.

Once more let me say, Were it not for disagreeable reflections,—how happy in such company, would be your ever faithful

LOUISA WILTON.

Mr. Banks, the worthy friend of
this agreeable man, is by the simi-
larity of his manners, deserving the con-
fession, he is every thing cheerful,
pious and entertaining.

Mrs E G E R T O N,

Mrs Bruce has had her natural
calm and tranquillity, early in life,
corrected by misfortune, and is at
present the most amiable woman of

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

MY swain, as you are pleased to
call him, cannot with propriety be
deemed a deserter, not being lawfully
attested : I assure my suspicious Louisa,
he is not shut up in Grosvenor-Square ;
my mother and I would have been
glad,

glad, could we have informed Mr. Featherstone, how necessary his appearance is at Bath, but it seems he is upon another route! Some new Oxfordshire intrigue I suppose, or the consequences of an old one: He did not even favour us with a farewell visit, but in a card very distant, very formal, presented his respectful compliments; an unexpected business—agitation of mind—distant journey—Return uncertain—would write to Lambert—and was ours, &c. &c.—I would ask your opinion, but such a shuttle-cock is not worth a thought.

These scarfs, as you say, are attracting things! Take care of Charlotte—I confess it would rejoice my mischievous heart, were he to do any execution upon the more experienced
dames,

dames, as he seems to be in no danger himself; and the passions of our present race of coquets, are so well regulated they seldom feel the arrows of Cupid above skin deep. But what can this man be composed of?—Insensible, say you! can he be insensible to my Louisa's charms? My Charlotte's amiable softness? My Harriet's sprightliness? Impossible! So intirely attentive to his sister! Strange.—My life for it he cannot be totally indifferent? and you will allow me to be a greater adept in the science of love, than your ladyship, who is so very, *very* far gone! A stander-by always sees more of the game, than he who plays; and if we cannot judge so well even of our own game, what knowledge can we be supposed to have, of one played at another table. The simile is a

K 3

stupid.

stupid one, but I think you will comprehend me: In a word, you suppose Lambert indifferent, I am much deceived if he is so; but I dare say a little time will discover, which way the needle will point. I once had some thoughts of taking him myself—but, I think I am not inclined to be so fond of him as I was; Can you divine the reason of my inconstancy? no, dull girl! then you shall have the pleasure of guessing——

Old Mr. Cooper, do you know Louisa, I have a great mind to set my cap at him! What a charming mother-in-law shall I make you! The thought delights me—methinks I see the dear, gouty old man, hobbling by my side along the terrace, pointing out to me the beauties of the prospects!

The

The melody of the groves! The enchanting murmur of the brooks! The luxurious verdure of the meadows! Such I presume are some of the subjects, by which you find yourselves so insensibly amused. Shall I go a little farther, and suppose my charming antique, in a state of domestic relaxation, wantonly rolling upon the grass, with a latter brood of dear little sweet representatives, (that of course you may imagine I shall present him with,) playing with his crutches! Ha, ha, ha—How do you like the painting, Louisa? “Not at all! mad creature! How can you ridicule so worthy, so good a man!” Truce, my good sententious friend—you know my disposition will not suffer me to be grave upon any subject:—I esteem old Mr. Cooper’s character highly; and the rather, as
he

he is the father of your—what shall
I call him Louisa? your Captain!

When you hear of Featherstone,
you may give a hint, what part of the
globe he has rambled to? I should
not be a woman if devoid of curiosity:
No other motive, indeed, Louisa! He
has slipped himself out of my good
graces I assure him—But I cannot get
my mother to think he has behaved
impolitely; she declares she esteems
him, and wishes him happy. Heigh
ho! well then—when you hear about
the culprit, you may if you please by
letting us know, very much oblige my
mother.

Tell Lambert, that killing as his
scarf is, I hope he will not be cox-
comb

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comb enough to continue it longer
then necessary.

I love Lucy, and will forgive her
out shining every beauty in Bath, but
my dear Louisa, and her charming
sisters.

ELIZA EGERTON.

Lady

very short notice, and upon the most
urgent business.

Lady LOUISA WILTON.

Miss EGERTON,

THAT I may lose no time in
satisfying the great anxiety of your
mama,—I have the pleasure to inform
you, Featherstone arrived at Bath last
night, from a north country journey ;
which he was obliged to undertake at a
very

very short notice, and upon the most urgent business.

This ought sufficiently to apologize to my dear Eliza, for any seeming distance or formality in his message to Grosvenor-square.—If the most respectful, suppose I call them tender inquiries after Mrs. Egerton and you, can reconcile him to your good graces, let me assure you he deserves them.

We are greatly concerned about poor Lambert ! though almost cured of his wounds, their effects have left him under a dejection of spirits, that is justly alarming !—his aunt is distressed to the last degree ;—Miss Lambert inconsolable ; the physicians have recommended a change of air, gentle exercise, and lively company.--Mr. Cooper, worthy

thy man, proposed a general party to Stretton Green, (an estate of Lambert's which he has not yet seen) the faculty disapproved it and rather wished a friend or two only might accompany him;—as from the smallness of the party he would be induced to associate with the gentlemen in his neighbourhood, who being strangers, Mr. Lambert might be more tempted to exert himself; and from which exertion they had every thing to expect.

Mr. Featherstone most readily undertook to accompany his friend, and stay a few days with him, till a captain Wilson joins them;—who Mr. Lambert has appointed his steward;—Mrs. Bruce, and Lucy, would gladly have attended him, but they were over-ruled

ruled and continue with us till the gentlemen return.

Mr. Cooper endeavours to smother his concern, but he is too sincerely interested in that young man's happiness, to do it effectually; I imagine he purposes joining them at Stretton Green in a few days.

Was I not so thoroughly acquainted with the uncommon fallies of your imagination, and well convinced of the goodness of your heart; — your vivacity should not escape with impunity.

Mr. Cooper, believe me my Eliza, is not a proper object of ridicule; — he is sensible and learned without pedantry, or austerity; — generous with-

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out riches;—humane from principles, and religious without hypocrisy;—ought I then to be ashamed of reverencing so estimable a man?—who I am proud to say, is the father of my William.

Amidst the disagreeable reflections I am subject to on the critical situation of my own affairs, and the concern that friendship and humanity makes me feel for the distress of the Lambert's, my dear sister Charlotte gives me a large addition of sorrow;—she droops insensibly, and I am at no loss for the cause.—Lucy was yesterday playing upon her mandolin, some new music Lambert had lately procured for her, (she plays and sings ravishingly) we were

were all in the deepest attention, when she sunk down upon the couch, and fainted away;—by the time we observed her situation, her brother had sprung cross the room, and supported her in his arms.—I never saw such a glow of satisfaction, as inflamed him upon her recovery.

“My Lucy!—my dearest Lucy!
 “how happy, how rejoiced am I to
 “see you better!—forgive me Ladies,
 “the effects of a tenderness I wish
 “not to conceal.”

No man had ever so deserving a sister;—no sister, so affectionate a brother:—he respectfully took her hand, kissed it, and led her cross the room to her aunt.—Bless and preserve my

my dear Lucy, (said Mrs. Bruce,) and embraced her with motherly affection.

The accident disordered us all;—but looking at Charlotte I found her ready to follow Lucy's example; I instantly supported her into the air, and was happy to prevent, the ill consequence I feared;—she came to herself; a flood of tears relieved her, and she had recollection enough, upon our return to the company, to ascribe her emotions to surprize, and her fears for Miss Lambert.

My judgement misleads me if I could not have assigned a juster cause:—but if she is really struck with Lambert's person, (and to a girl romantically inclined, his present indisposition

does

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does not make it the more improbable, it is necessary she should be separated; I am resolved she shall not continue here after his return.

That unfortunate Clara!—I fear a fatality attending all who fix their affections upon him:---the misery of a hopeless passion, I will to the utmost of my power, endeavour to prevent my deserving sister, from falling a victim to.

Through Lambert's means I have heard from Ireland;---Cooper subscribes to my opinion, for a few days delay in the discovery of our engagement; till it may be effected without subjecting me to severity, or ill usage from my brother.

As

As soon as ever it can be declared with safety to me;—he must treat me as I will not lose a minute's consideration about him, but give him up to the consequences.

I am convinced Cooper's respect for my brother, and regard for me, would make him use every honourable means to avoid coming to extremities :---But I should be sorry to expose him, to any unjust, or unworthy invectives ;---which it is possible Lord Wilton's impetuosity may excite him to use.

I hope I shall have a proper opportunity to avow our connection, while the Irish channel is betwixt them

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them; but in that case explanations
may be more coolly attended to,
and the fatal effects of rashness pre-
vented.

LOUISA WILTON.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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No. 523

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